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A CONTRIBUTION TO THE
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE HISTORY OF
THE UNITED STATES NAVY
A CONTRIBUTION TO
THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
THE HISTORY OF THE
UNITED STATES
NAVY

COMPILED BY

CHARLES T. HARBECK

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PREFACE

Several years ago the compiler desired to add to his collection of books on the United States Navy, and to that end began the collection of titles of books not in his possession. At the time he had no intention of printing the list, merely desiring it for his personal use. As it assumed large proportions, and through many inquiries from people interested in the subject he learned that no bibliography of the History of the United States Navy had been published, he concluded to print a limited edition for the benefit of others.

In the work of compilation he has been assisted by Miss Agnes C. Doyle of the Boston Public Library and Mr. Axel Mothe of the New York Public Library. Miss Doyle has also revised and edited the work.

He is aware that the arrangement does not follow the form prescribed by scientific bibliographers, but the method he has adopted seems simple and convenient. It is impossible in a book of this character, where the titles have been gathered from lists and libraries whose methods of cataloguing are not the same, to expect absolute accuracy, but the editor has endeavored to minimize the inconsistencies, and, when possible, has compared the titles with the books.

For the list of United States Documents, acknowledgment is made to the New York Public Library, through whose courtesy it was prepared. It has not been considered advisable to extend the analysis beyond 1898, since the time required for the work would delay indefinitely the publication of this bibliography, and also because the later volumes of Congressional Documents are more readily accessible than the earlier ones.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Charles W. Stewart, who furnished the list of Navy Registers.

The preparation of this list has been a pleasure to the compiler, and it is his earnest wish that it may be of use to the student and collector.

THE COMPILER.

306 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK.
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— Same. Separate. 13 pp. 8°.


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Attributed to Horace Kimball. Some copies are dated 1840. The edition of 1848 has added a few nautical songs and a list of the American navy for 1831. See also Naval battles of the United States. Boston. 1859. 12°; and Naval Temple. Boston. 1816. 8°.


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General view, A, of the rise, progress, and brilliant achievements of the American navy, down to the present time. . . . To which is affixed a succinct account of the origin and progress of the Greek Revolution. Terminating with the glorious victory of Navarino, October 20, 1827. Brooklyn, N. Y. 1828. 484 pp. 12°.


Jesse, Paul. See Cooper, James Fenimore.


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Contains almost the same as Naval battles of the United States. Boston. 1839; and American naval battles. Boston. 1831.

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Reprinted from New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 1871-72.
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There is much Revolutionary naval material in the *Journals of the Continental Congress*, and in Force's *American Archives*; Ben: Perley Poore's *Descriptive Catalogue* gives guidance to much in the early congressional documents. *See also* E. E. Hale's chapter (vii) in v. 6 of Winsor's *Narrative and Critical History*. *See also* Biography.


A celebrated case, which was not finally determined until 1809. Olmstead and others of Connecticut were pressed into British service aboard the sloop "Active" in 1777. They mutinied and seized the vessel, but were themselves captured by the American brig "Convention." In the condemnation proceeding which followed, the adjudgment of the Pennsylvania Court of Admiralty in favor of the State was set aside by the Federal Commissioners of Appeal and the moneys deposited with David Rittemhouse, Treasurer of the State. The case of Olmstead et al. v. Rittemhouse's Executors, brought before the Supreme Court in 1802, was decided in favor of the plaintiffs.

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INSTRUCTION

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* 1814—1815. Printed by order of the Senate of the United States.
† 1817—1821. Printed by order of the Secretary of the Navy conformably to a resolution of the Honorable Senate of the United States.
‡ 1822—1839. Printed by order of the Secretary of the Navy, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the United States of August 2, 1813.
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"The first volume of the official Navy Register was issued in 1814, and registers were printed annually from that year to 1861, inclusive, with the exception of the year 1816, when the printing of the Navy Register was for some reason omitted. The annual Navy Registers from 1822 to 1839, inclusive, were 'printed by order of the Secretary of the Navy, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the United States of August 2, 1813.' This resolution does not appear on the journal of the Senate, but on January 31, 1813, the Senate passed a resolution that the Secretary of the Department of the Navy be directed to lay before the Senate at its next session a list of all the commissioned officers of the navy, and also of the midshipmen of the same, showing the dates of appointment and rank. On September 22, 1814, the Senate passed a resolution that each member be furnished with a copy of the last printed register of the officers of the navy, and on December 13, 1815, it was resolved that the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy be requested to furnish annually, on the first day of January, each member of the Senate with a copy of the register of the officers of the Army and Navy of the United States. From 1840 to 1861, inclusive, the annual Navy Register bore on its title-page, 'Printed by order of the Secretary of the Navy, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the United States of December 13, 1815.' In August, 1861, a Navy list was printed, supplemental to the January Register, which showed simply the names of the officers in the order of their rank and their present duty or station. This was issued presumably on account of the large number of resignations during the first six months of 1861, which rendered the January Register entirely inaccurate. The regular Navy Register was omitted in January, 1862, for the first time since the year 1816, but the Navy list appeared in September, 1862, and the regular publication in January was resumed with the year 1863. In 1866, the semi-annual register or list appeared again in the month of August, the Register continuing to appear semi-annually, the summer edition being merely the Navy list until July, 1886, inclusive, except in the year 1876, when the July Register was omitted, in the year 1878 when the January Register was omitted, and in the year 1879 when the July Register was again omitted. In 1887 the regular annual Register was dated February 1, but the whole edition of this
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Register was recalled as far as possible and suppressed, and the Register did not appear again until July, when it appeared in the full form of the annual Register. Copies of the Register for February, 1887, are rare, as well as those of August 31, 1861. Since July, 1887, the Register has been issued only once a year, and has been dated January 1.

"The earlier numbers of the Register were generally small duodecimo pamphlets varying in size up to the year 1835, and in the year 1854 the size was increased to the present size, and as early as the year 1835 the Register was begun to be bound in dark blue paper with a foul anchor stamped on the cover, and this continued to be the recognized form of cover for the Navy Register until the year 1878, when the foul anchor was omitted, and since then the cover has sometimes been a pale blue instead of dark blue.

"But one complete set of Navy Registers is known to exist, and that was begun by the late Rear-Admiral G. H. Preble, the earlier volumes being bound up with the reports of the Secretary of the Navy and current naval literature. Admiral Preble himself says of this set that it is believed, in his time, to be the only one extant. This set is now in the library of the Navy Department.

"Besides the official Navy Register there have been from time to time private publications of a like nature. In 1800 a Navy Register was printed by C. W. Goldsborough, Chief Clerk of the Navy Department, and there is also one for 1805 and 1806, annotated by G. H. Preble, in the library of the Navy Department. About the year 1843, a man named Homans, in Baltimore, published for a short time a quarterly Navy list, some copies of which are bound in with Admiral Preble's complete set of Navy Registers.

"In 1848 appeared 'A General Register of the Navy and Marine Corps, alphabetically arranged, containing the names of the officers of the Navy and Marine Corps, Military and Civil, Commissioned and Warrant, who have entered the service since the establishment of the Navy Department in 1798, showing the dates of their original rank and entry, the dates of their promotion to higher grades, and in what manner and when they left the service, if not still in it; to which is appended the Constitution of the United States and a revised edition of all laws relating to the Navy and Marine Corps, with references to the Statutes at Large, compiled from the original records of the Navy Department by authority of Hon. John Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy, by Mechklin & Winder, attorneys and agents.' This register is valuable, was repeatedly revised for accuracy, and was certified to by Captain Lewis Warrington, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, Captain Charles W. Skinner, Chief of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment and Repair, and Captain Joseph Smith, Chief of the Bureau of Docks and Yards. By means of this register the history of any officer who entered the service prior to 1848 may be briefly traced.

"In 1882 Hamersley, of Philadelphia, published a general register which was called The Register of the Navy for One Hundred Years; on the same plan as the General Register of 1848; it is, however, full of inaccuracies. For brief biographical notices of living officers and officers who were distinguished during the Civil War, see, also, Hamersley's Records of Living Officers of the Navy and Marine Corps, Hamersley, Philadelphia, 1890.

"For seven years, from 1884 to 1891, an Army and Navy list was issued on the 15th day of each month at 1442 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, by the Army and Navy Register Publishing Company, the Army and Navy Register being the service journal of that name. The last number of this list was dated April, 1891. The publication contained an alphabetical list of the officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, giving the actual rank and post-office address of each officer."


LISTS AND REGISTERS

1814. Letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a list of all the commissioned officers in the navy of the United States, showing their respective rank and dates of the commissions; also a list of all the midshipmen, with the dates of their warrants. Feb. 21, 1814. Washington. Printed by R. O. Weightman. 1814. 29 pp. 8°.


1817. Register, A, of officers and agents, civil, military, and naval, in the service of the United States. Sept., 1817; together with the names, force, and condition of all the ships and vessels belonging to the United States, and where and when built. Washington. E. De Krafft. 1818. 92, 96 pp. 8°.


1824. Letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a list of the officers of the navy of United States; the period of their admission into public service; the date of their respective commissions, and the time of their actual service at sea, since Jan. 1, 1815. Jan. 22, 1824. Washington. Gales & Seaton. 1824. [18 cong., 1 sess. Ex. papers, 43.]

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