



S.S. United States Papers

Descriptive Summary and Abstract

Creator:	Robbie de Vries, various other creators
Title:	S.S. United States Papers
Dates:	1969, 1984, 1985, 1993, 2008, undated
Abstract:	This is a collection of artifacts from the S.S. United States. The artifacts include a flag, bible, linens, silverware, menu, landing card, and other paper artifacts from the ship. They were bought by Robbie de Vries and donated to the University.
Location:	MC014
Size:	0.2 linear feet (1 box)
Language:	English
Repository:	Jack K. Williams Library, Archives and Manuscripts, Texas A&M University at Galveston. Phone: 409-740-4560; Email: LIBRARY@tamug.edu
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Donor:	Robbie de Vries, 1985

Biographical Note

The S.S. United States was designed by William Francis Gibbs. On July 3rd, 1952 the S.S. United States, also known as "America's flagship" set out on her maiden voyage. On her maiden voyage she broke the eastbound speed record. In the 1960's other forms of travel, such as air travel, became popular and the era of ocean liners slowly came to an end with the S.S. United States' competitors being sold off. The United States was withdrawn from service in 1969. The ship has been bought and sold numerous times since being withdrawn from service. The ship's interior fittings were auctioned off in 1984, which is how Mrs. De Vries came into possession of the flag and other artifacts. The interior walls were torn out in the 1990's to remove hazardous asbestos. The S.S. United States is currently located in Philadelphia and owned by the S.S. United States Conservancy. It has been docked in Philadelphia for nearly twenty years. As of 2016, there is discussion between Crystal Cruises and the S.S. United States Conservancy about possibly restoring the ship to service.

Sources:

"Facts." *SS United States Conservancy*. <http://www.ssusc.org/the-conservancy/facts/>

"History: Glory Years." *SS United States Conservancy*. <http://www.ssusc.org/americas-flagship/history-glory-years/>

"History: Retirement." *SS United States Conservancy*. <http://www.ssusc.org/americas-flagship/historytwilight/>
Kunzig, Robert. "The World's Fastest Ocean Liner May be Restored to Sail Again." *National Geographic*. National Geographic, Feb. 8, 2016. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/02/160208-ss-united-states-ocean-liner-cruise-ship-photos/>

Scope and Content Note

This is a collection of artifacts from the S.S. United States. The artifacts include a flag, bible, linens, silverware, menu, landing card, and other paper artifacts from the ship. They were bought by Robbie de Vries and donated to the University. The collection includes a conservation report about the flag, correspondence between de Vries and the University about the purchase and donation of the American flag from the S.S. United States and correspondence about de Vries' new book. Background information about the S.S. United States and de Vries are also included.

Organization of the Papers

Series 1. Background information

Series 2. Artifacts

Series 3. Robbie de Vries information

Restrictions

Access Open access.

Usage Restrictions: Access to fragile materials may be limited. Some materials may not be reproduced and travel to the collection may be necessary. Contact Jack K. Williams library for more information.

Administration Information

Provenance: Donated by Robbie de Vries, 1985

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Processed by: Alexandra Mitchell, 2016

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1. Background information

1.1 S.S. United States Background Information, 2008

Series 2. Artifacts

These artifacts were purchased by Robbie de Vries and donated to the Texas A&M University at Galveston. Paper artifacts are located in the archival boxes. She also donated a

flag, a bible, linens, and silverware from the S.S. United States, which are on display at the entrance to the library.

2.1 S.S. United States Artifacts, 1969, undated

Notecard, landing card, "presentation" cover, stationery, Menu
(March 22, 1969. Saturday)

2.2 Donation correspondence, 1984-1985

2.3 Conservation Report, 1984

Series 3. Robbie de Vries information

3.1 Robbie de Vries bio, undated

3.2 Correspondence, 1993