

# Guide to the Richard F. C. Hartley Papers

MS 646



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

December 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 646

**CREATOR:** Hartley, Richard F. C.

**TITLE:** Richard F. C. Hartley papers

**DATES:** 1816-1884

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.25 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence and business papers of Captain Richard F. C. Hartley, shipping firm owner of Saco, Maine, mainly relating to voyages of the ships Messenger and Devonshire. Also included are Samuel Hartley's memo booklets for the sloop Packet of Saco, 1816-1838. An addition to the collection includes documents of ships owned by Richard Hartley involved in the guano trade between Peru and other countries.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0646>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0646>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired by purchase.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Richard F. C. Hartley Papers (MS 646). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Richard F. C. Hartley was born around 1808. He was from Saco, Maine, where he was engaged in the shipping business. Hartley made voyages all across the world, transporting European Mormons to the United States in 1854 and traveling to Australia in 1860. He died at sea in 1897 after a long illness.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of business correspondence and other papers of Captain Richard F. C. Hartley, shipping firm owner of Saco, Maine. It also includes the papers of Samuel Hartley.

The papers of Samuel Hartley consist of eighteen memo books of the sloop "Packet of Saco" sailing out of Boston. They contain accounts, records of cargoes and business to be transacted, notes on correspondence and navigation, lists of passengers, and so forth.

The correspondence of Richard F. C. Hartley deals with orders for cargoes, the purchase of ships and hiring of crews, financial matters, insurance policies, and related matters. There are letters from several captains reporting on their voyages and on repairs to their ships, including a substantial number of letters from Captain Sedgley recording two voyages (1869-1871) of the "Devonshire" to Europe, China, South East Asia, and Japan. Other letters record voyages of the "Messenger" to Europe and Asia.

Hartley's diary for 1870 covers a business trip to the West Coast. It contains notes about both business and social activities, as well as some financial records. The rest of Hartley's papers deal with various of his ships. There is a memo book for the "Messenger" for the years 1863-1872 containing lists of crew members, supplies, and equipment, financial records, et cetera. The other ships' papers consist of legal and financial materials such as insurance policies, bills and receipts, checks, and related items. The largest groups of papers pertain to the "Messenger" and the "Devonshire," while smaller amounts of material relate to the "A. Hammond," the "J. Montgomery," and others. The papers are arranged by ship.

The memo books of Samuel Hartley were acquired by Yale University by purchase in 1967.

An addition to the collection includes documents of ships owned by Richard Hartley involved in the guano trade between Peru and other countries. Also included are documents related to trade through San Francisco and New Orleans.

## **Arrangement**

Arranged primarily by type of material.

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## Collection Contents

### Original accession

b. 1, f. 1-2	Samuel Hartley: memo books for the sloop "Packet of Saco"	1816 May-1838 January
	Richard F. C. Hartley	
b. 1, f. 3-10	Correspondence	1865-1881, undated
b. 2, f. 11	Diary	1870
b. 2, f. 11	Memo book for the ship <i>Messenger</i>	1863-1872
	Ships' legal and financial papers	
b. 2, f. 12	<i>A. Hammond</i>	1875-1881
b. 2, f. 13	<i>D. W. Vaughan</i>	1859
b. 2, f. 13	<i>Delhi</i>	1873
b. 2, f. 14 - 15	<i>Devonshire</i>	1867-1875
b. 2, f. 16	<i>J. W. Montgomery</i>	1867-1869
b. 2, f. 17 - 20	<i>Messenger</i>	1864-1875, undated
b. 2, f. 21	<i>Restless</i>	1873
b. 2, f. 21	<i>Windward</i>	1867
b. 2, f. 22	Miscellaneous	1865-1899, undated

**Accession 2009-M-086: Additional Material, Circa 1854-1884**

This accession includes correspondence, labor agreements, invoices, insurance contracts, and other financial documents relating to the operations of various ships, primarily employed in the guano trade, owned by Richard F. C. Hartley of Saco, Maine. Hartley's ships called at ports in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Also included are shipping documents relating to trade through San Francisco and New Orleans.

Arranged primarily by type of material.

b. 2, f. 1-5	Letters to Richard Hartley from captains of his ships A significant number of these letters are from a ship captain named Waldo Hill.	Circa 1866-1873
b. 2, f. 6-7	Letters to Richard Hartley from insurance brokers, shipping merchants, and captains	1864-1880
b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence and related documents from shipping agents and insurance brokers relating to guano cargo	1865-1875
b. 1, f. 2-4	Insurance, contracts, and other financial records relating to the ship <i>Messenger</i> and the bark <i>Devonshire</i>	Circa 1864-1879
b. 1, f. 5-6	Insurance, bills of cargo, tug boat receipts, ballast lists, and invoices	1863-1877
b. 2, f. 8-11	Invoices for goods and services received	Circa 1864-1881
b. 4, f. 1	Invoices and customs forms from various ships Ships include <i>Sterling</i> , <i>Messenger</i> , and <i>Devonshire</i> .	1864-1881
b. 3, f. 1-2	Agreements between ship masters and crew	Circa 1854-1884

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Business  
Businessmen  
Guano industry

### **Geographic Names**

China  
Japan  
Maine -- Commerce  
New England  
Peru

### **Names**

Hartley, Richard F. C.  
Hartley, Samuel

### **Corporate Bodies**

Devonshire (Ship)  
Messenger (Ship)  
Packet (Sloop)