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RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 88 M 74

Location

05-6-5

Title. David S. Edwards. Journal and papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1818-65

Date of receipt Aug. 2, 1988

Received from

R.M. Weatherford, Inc.,  
Booksellers

Volume on arrival 1 pkg.

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 1/2 AB

Condition Good

Restrictions N/A

Description SEE separate sheets

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries  
SEE separate sheet

Accessioned by

John Simpson

Date

10/26/88

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Title David S. Edwards. Journal and papers

DESCRIPTION

Dr. David S. Edwards (d.Mar. 18, 1874) was appointed a surgeon's mate in the United States Navy on December 25, 1818. In the summer of the following year he served on the U.S.S. Congress on a voyage to the Cape of Good Hope. During 1821-22 he was acting surgeon on the U.S.S. Grampus during its cruises to the Caribbean to suppress piracy there. While his ship was in pursuit of pirates on the north coast of Cuba he received a gunshot wound which left a permanent lameness in his right hand. During 1823-24 he served on the U.S.S. Nonesuch and on the U.S.S. Erie on cruise in the western Mediterranean and along the Barbary Coast. He was appointed surgeon May 5, 1825. During the War with Mexico he was ordered to accompany detachments of marines embarking in New York for Mexico and during the summer and fall of 1847 he served as medical director of the 4th Division of Marines commanded by General John A. Quitman. In 1848 he was appointed Surgeon of the Fleet for the Home Squadron at Norfolk, Va., and was assigned (until 1850?) to the U.S. Frigate Raritan. In 1857 he was attached to the U.S. Steam Frigate Merrimack as Surgeon of the Fleet for the Pacific Squadron. He retired from the Navy on Dec. 21, 1861. After his retirement he served for a time during 1864 as recruiting agent with the title Surgeon of the Naval Rendezvous, at New Bedford, Mass.

## ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 88 M 74

Title David S. Wards. Journal and papers.

## DESCRIPTION

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The journal (1818-24) kept by Dr. David S. Edwards as a surgeon's mate and as acting surgeon in the U.S. Navy is divided into three chronological parts. The first part (Sept 24, 1818 - Aug. 23, 1819 on p. 1-6) describes his voyage on the U.S.S. Congress from the southern U.S. to the Cape of Good Hope. While in port there is mention of a visit by President Monroe and John C. Calhoun, the Creek Chief McIntosh, and Commodore Stephen Decatur.

The second part (Aug. 13, 1821 - July 1822 on p. 32-85) describes two cruises on the U.S.S. Grampus from New York and from Charleston, S.C. to the Caribbean for the purpose of suppressing piracy there. Edwards describes ports of call and places visited, including social and political conditions, local customs, architecture and the physical environment at Abaco, St. Barthelemy, St. Thomas, Crab Island, Aguadilla, Port of Prince, Sugar Key, Havana, Santa Marta, Cartagena and Charleston, S.C. Included are accounts of skirmishes with pirates, the sighting and pursuit of suspicious vessels, the pursuit of pirate vessels which had been surprised robbing a brig near Sugar Key, and actions involving naval officers Robert Stockton and Matthew C. Perry. There is also a description of political conditions in Haiti, the Haitian leaders, Christophe, Petion and Boyer, and an account of a visit with the latter in the presidential palace. Also related are events relative to the struggle for independence in Colombia ('Patriot America') including a description of the capture of the rebel privateer "Cienega" which was to have been delivered to the Spanish Government, and a grand ball held at Government House, Carthage following the capture of Porto Bello and Panama by the 'Patriots'.

## ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 88 M 74

Title David S. Edwards. Journal and papers.

## DESCRIPTION

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The third part (Nov. 8, 1823 - Sept. 22, 1824, on p. 88-165; Sept. 23 - Dec. 3, 1824 on p 7-26, on p. 7-26) describes a cruise on the U.S.S. Erie and the U.S.S. Nonesuch (which Edwards joined at Gibraltar) to the Western Mediterranean. Edwards gives detailed descriptions <sup>of</sup> ports of call and places visited including Gibraltar, Malagar, Majorca, Port Mahon, Tangier, Tripoli, Algiers, Carthage, Tunis, Naples, <sup>Palermo</sup> Capini, Mt. Vesuvius, Bariae, Herculaneum, Palermo, and Malta. He describes tours of Gibraltar and its fortifications, the ruins of Carthage, and the Roman ruins in Italy at Bariae, Herculaneum, and Pompeii. Included is a lengthy description of a bull fight at Algeciras, an opera at the St. Carlos theater, mention of a visit by Lord Blessington in Byron's yacht, Franklin's electric conductor, seeing from a distance King Ferdinand IV, and an execution which having failed at the first attempt had to be repeated. Included are numerous comments on political conditions including the invasion of Spain by the French, the activities of the Algerian fleet against the Spanish and the Dutch, the retrieval of Americans held prisoner in Algiers, the blockade of Algiers by the English, and the massacre of the English consul at Smyrna. The journal is written in a fairly clear hand in ink and paginated (1-167) at the top of the leaf with an oval-shaped label affixed by a subsequent owner. Its original covers have broken off, and its binding resown. In resowing, its chronological order has been disturbed slightly. The journal measures 20x25mm.

There are also present collateral naval papers (1823-65 - 20 items) consisting of orders signed by secretaries of the navy and by commanding officers appointing or assigning Edwards to various positions and duties; receipts; a draft letter by Edwards testifying to the bravery of General W.B. Burnett during the Mexican War; and other papers relating to his naval career.