

# **Richard Dale**

## **A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress**

**Prepared by Karen Linn Femia**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**1998**

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress  
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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Papers of Richard Dale

**Span Dates:** 1778-1918

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1778-1830)

**ID No.:** MSS56952

**Creator:** Dale, Richard, 1756-1826

**Extent:** 7 items; 1 container plus 1 oversize; 0.6 linear feet; 1 microfilm reel

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Repository:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Abstract:** Naval officer; served with the British navy from 1776 to 1777 when he joined the Continental Navy, serving as first lieutenant to John Paul Jones on the *Bonhomme Richard*. Correspondence, commissions, mathematics notebook, and journal/logbook (1787-1789) kept on a voyage aboard a merchant ship to Canton, China, and to New Guinea. Includes letterbook (1801-1802) of Dale's outgoing correspondence while in command of the U.S. frigate *President* in the Mediterranean during the Tripolitan War.

## 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.

### Names:

Dale, Richard, 1756-1826

Bainbridge, William, 1774-1833--Correspondence

Jones, John Paul, 1747-1792--Correspondence

Kennedy, John Pendleton, 1795-1870--Correspondence

Read, George C. (George Campbell), 1787-1862--Correspondence

Smith, Robert, 1757-1842--Correspondence

Stoddert, Benjamin, 1751-1813--Correspondence

Bon Homme Richard (Ship)

Great Britain. Navy--Officers

President (Frigate)

United States. Continental Navy--Officers

United States. Navy--History

United States. Navy--Officers

### Subjects:

Merchant ships--United States

Voyages and travels

Guangzhou (China)--Description and travel

Mediterranean Sea

New Guinea--Description and travel

United States--History--Tripolitan War, 1801-1805--Naval operations

United States--History, Naval

### Occupations:

Naval officers

Naval officers, British

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of Richard Dale, British and American naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1976 by the Naval History Division. The 1801 letter written by Dale to Eaton was purchased by the Library in 1917.

**Copyright Status:**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Richard Dale is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Microfilm:**

A microfilm on one reel was made of the 1787-1789 ship's journal. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

**Preferred Citation:**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Richard Dale Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Richard Dale (1756-1826) span the years 1778 to 1918 with the bulk of the material dating from the 1770s to the 1820s. The papers consist of correspondence, commissions, a mathematics notebook kept while Dale was in Mill Prison, Plymouth, England, a journal/log of a voyage aboard a merchant ship to Canton, China, and New Guinea, 1787-1789 (available on microfilm), and a license and an appointment paper of two of Dale's descendants.

Dale was born in 1756 near Norfolk, Virginia. He served with the British Navy, 1776-1777, but joined the colonial cause in 1777. He served as John Paul Jones's first lieutenant on the *BonHomme Richard* in the battle with HMS *Serapis*. In 1801, Dale was sent to the Mediterranean to blockade Tripoli with a five-ship fleet at the outbreak of the Tripolitan War. He died in Philadelphia in 1826. One of the letterbooks contains copies of Dale's outgoing letters while in command of the United States frigate *President* in Tripoli, 1801-1802. Some of his correspondence during the Tripolitan War are in the other letterbook (letters numbered 19, 24, 25, 33, 40, 42). This letterbook includes letters written to Dale, many letters to Rear Admiral George Campbell Read (1787-1862), Dale's son-in-law, and letters to several others. The letters were placed in alphabetical order by name of correspondent, placed in a bound volume with a number assigned to each letter. The letters are from various naval officers and secretaries of the navy, including William Bainbridge, John Paul Jones, and Secretaries of the Navy John P. Kennedy, Robert Smith, and Benjamin Stoddert. Commissions and appointment papers are signed by John Adams, Millard Fillmore, John Hancock, George Washington, and Daniel Webster.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Commissions and appointment papers, 1779-1785, 1851
BOX 1	Journal, 1787-1789 <i><u>See Oversize</u></i>
BOX 1	Letter, Dale to William Eaton, 1801
BOX 1	Letterbooks
BOX 1	Copies of outgoing correspondence, 1801-1802
BOX 1	Letters to Dale and George C. Read, et al., 1780-1845
BOX 1	License to Edward C. Dale to serve as mate on steam vessels, 1918
BOX 1	Mathematics notebook, 1778
BOX OV 1	Journal, 1787-1789 Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 20,499