Joseph Matkin, 1853-1927

Joseph Matkin Letters, 1868-1984

Physical Description: 1 mss, 1 L mss

Description: The collection consists of 44 autographed signed letters written by Joseph Matkin, ship's steward's assistant on H.M.S. CHALLENGER during the Challenger oceanographic expedition of 1872-1876, to members of his family in Oakham, Rutland, England. The letters describe the mission, oceanographic operations and ports of call of the H.M.S. CHALLENGER. The letters include a transcript made by Joseph Matkin of a lecture delivered by C. Wyville Thompson to the crew describing the mission of the expedition. Ports of call described in Matkin's letters include Fayal, Lisbon, Bermuda, Tongatabu, Hong Kong, Gulf of Yedo, New Guinea, Sydney, Hilo, and many others. Collection includes the original letters, transcripts, microfilm, photographs, and a copy of John Thomas Swann's copybook of correspondence.

Below, a transcript follows the folder list.

Donor: Lucy Mary Matkin Stone (Mrs. Vernon E. Stone). Mrs. Stone made typescript transcripts of all letters. Letters were received 3/20/84 from Mrs. Stone and sent to Victoria Blyth Hill of LA County Museum for conservation treatment, then to UCLA for microfilming.
Joseph Matkin Papers, 1868-1984  
Accession Number 84-21

BOX   FOLDER TITLE

1    [Mother of Pearl Cuff Links, n.d.]

Joseph Matkin to Sarah Matkin, Spring Creek Gold Diggings, 23 April 1868.

[List of Officers on H.M.S. Invincible – Hull, c. 1871]

Joseph Matkin to Mother, March 21, 1871, 1 leaf

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Invincible June 21, 1871, 1 leaf

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Invincible, Hull, July 11, 1871, 1 leaf and envelope

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Invincible, Hull, November 11, [1871], 1 leaf and envelope

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Audacious, Devonport, November 26, 1871, 1 leaf

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Audacious, Hull, December 17, 1871, 1 leaf and envelope

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Audacious Hull, December 22, 1871, 1 leaf

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Audacious, Hull, January 27, 1872, 1 leaf and envelope

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Audacious, Hull, March 5, 1872, 2 leaves

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Audacious, Hull, May 30, [1872], 2 leaves

Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Audacious, Spithead, August 6, 1872, 2 leaves

Envelope, Joseph Matkin to Mrs. Matkin, postmarked Sheerness, September 25, 1872

January 8, 1873. JM to Mother, Lisbon Roads

February 2, 1873. Madeira, Mother (song)

March 3, 1873. At Sea (St. Thomas), Mother

May 26, 1873. JM to Charlie, At Sea (Bermuda)

June 19, 1873. Mid Atlantic (Madeira), JM to Mother (Sarah Craxton Matkin)
Joseph Matkin to Mother, H.M.S. Challenger Fuuchal Roads, July 16, 1873, 1 leaf

August 4, 1873. St. Vincent (partial letter)

October 1873. Tristan de Cunha, Fragment

November 5, 1873. Simon’s Bay (Charlie)

December 10, 1873. Table Bay, JM to Mother

December 15, 1873. Simon’s Bay, JM to Charlie

Xmas Day, 1873. Prince Edward’s Island (Mother)

Aunt Lizzie to Joseph Matkin, 3 February 1874

March 23, 1874. Melbourne, JM to Mother

May 7, 1874. Sydney (Mother)

May 15, 1874. Sydney, JM to Charlie

Charles Matkin to Joseph Matkin, 29 May 1874

July 23, 1874. Longatabu (Willie)

Charles Matkin to Joseph Matkin, May 29, 1874, 1 leaf

December 31, 1874. Hong Kong, JM to Fred

February 24, 1875. New Guinea (Mother)

April 12, 1875. Gulf of Yedo, JM to Mother

May 7, 1875. Yokohama (Mother)

Sarah Craxford Matkin to Joseph Matkin, 17 June 1875

July 13, 1875. North Pacific (Honolulu), JM to Mother

August 19, 1875. Hilo (Mother)

November 15, 1875. Juan Fernandez (partial letter)
1 March 16, 1876. S. Atlantic (St. Vincent), Fred
Ellen Creaton to Joseph Matkin, July 11, 1876, 1 leaf and envelop
Joseph Matkin to Pollie [i.e. Mary] Swift, February 13, 1877, Valentine and envelop
Joseph Matkin to Mary Swift, March 12, 1878, 3 leaves and envelop
Copy negatives and photographs Joseph Matkin made 1984 from originals held by Mary Matkin Stone
[Photograph, Sarah Craxton Matkin, Joseph Matkin, Granny Craxton, Mary Swift Matkin and Charles Matkin; [1882]]
Matkin Letter Photographs, 1984
Letters from Joseph Matkin, H.M.S. Challenger Voyage (1872-1876) [Transcripts]
Swann Book Transcripts, 1872-1874
Swann Book Transcripts, 1875-1876

2 84-21 MC8, Joseph Thomas Swann Copybook c. 1 (Microfilm)
84-21 MC8, Joseph Thomas Swann Copybook c. 2 (Microfilm)
84-21, MC8, Joseph Matkin, 23 letters, 1873-1876 (Microfilm)
John Thomas Swann Letterbook