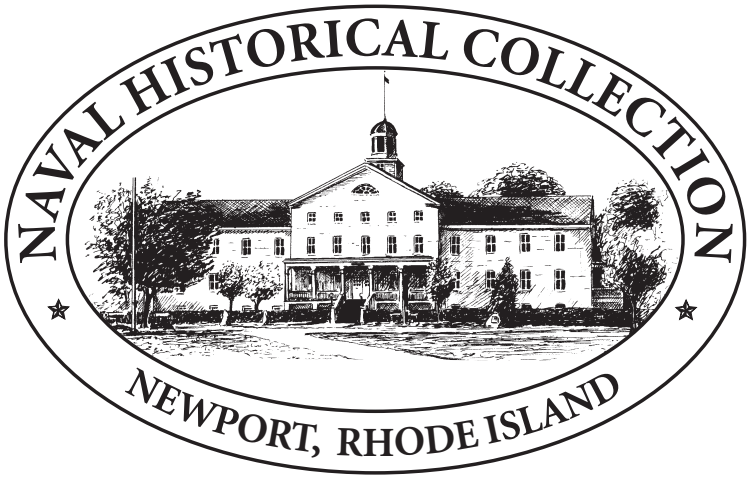
# Register of the Scott Umsted Papers




**Naval War College**
**Newport, RI**

# REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF SCOTT UMSTED

**Compiled by**
**Evelyn M. Cherpak, Ph.D.**

**Manuscript Register Series**
**No. 37**

**Naval Historical Collection**
**Naval War College,**
**Newport, Rhode Island**
**2007**

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## Biographical Sketch

Rear Admiral Scott Umsted was born on April 27, 1892 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He was appointed to the academy from Pennsylvania and graduated in 1915 with the rank of ensign.

Umsted attended submarine school in New London, Connecticut in 1917 and saw action during World War I in European waters. As an officer of USS *AL-2* he encountered an enemy submarine on July 10, 1918 and successfully maneuvered the ship out of danger. He received a letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for his action. He served in a number of submarines during the nineteen twenties and was commanding officer of USS *N-2*, USS *R-10* and USS *S-17*. He returned to New London as head of the submarine school in 1935. In 1940, he was Commanding Officer, Submarine Division Twelve. From 1927–1930, he conducted hydrographic research in USS *Niagar*a ( SP 136), took command of USS *Tillman* (DD 135) in 1932 and served in USS *Raleigh* (CL-7), where he had temporary duty as beachmaster, the Canal Zone.

Umsted had a long association with the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He graduated from the Junior Course in 1926 and from the Senior Course in 1937. He was on the staff of the Correspondence Course in 1941 and was a member of the Strategy Department from 1943–1947. He also attended the Army War College in 1937–1938 and was on the staff of the U.S. Naval Academy from 1930–1932.

During World War II, he was commanding officer of USS *New York* (BB 34) and took part in Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa, where the ship provided gun support at Safi and stood by at Casablanca and Fedhala. She returned to the United States where she took part in convoy operations to North Africa, bringing vital supplies to the U.S. forces there.

Umsted retired from the Navy on January 1, 1947 with the rank of captain and was advanced to the rank of rear admiral. He resided in Jamestown, Rhode Island, and taught at the University of Rhode Island for fifteen years and was also on the faculty of Vernon Court Junior College in Newport. Umsted died on July 18, 1979 in Providence, Rhode Island. His survivors include his wife, Margaret Beale Hemphill, and his son, Scott. He was predeceased by his son, Lieutenant Truxtun Umsted, USN.

During the course of his career, Umsted received the following medals: the World War I Victory Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

## Chronology of Naval Service

| | |
|---|---|
| 1892 | Born, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, April 27 |
| 1915 | Graduated, U. S. Naval Academy, Ensign |
| 1915–1917 | USS *Utah* (BB 31) |
| 1917 | USS *Fulton* (AS 1) |
| 1917 | U.S. Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut |
| 1918 | USS *AL-9* |
| 1918–1919 | USS *AL-2* |
| 1919–1920 | USS *N-2*, Commanding Officer |
| 1920 | USS *Frederick* (ACR 8) |
| 1920–1921 | USS *R–10*, Commanding Officer |
| 1921–1923 | USS *S–17* |
| 1923 | USS *Ajax* ( AC 14) |
| 1923–1924 | USS *Polos* |
| 1925 | USS *Rainbow* (AS 7) |
| 1925–1926 | Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, Student, Junior Course |
| 1926–1927 | Office of Naval Communications, Washington, D.C. |
| 1927–1930 | USS *Niagara* (SP 136) |
| 1930–1932 | U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, Staff |
| 1932–1933 | USS *Tillman* (DD 135), Commanding Officer |
| 1932–1933 | USS *Raleigh* (CL 7) |
| 1935–1936 | U.S. Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut |
| 1936–1937 | Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, Student, Senior Course |
| 1937–1938 | Army War College, Fort Humphreys, Washington, D.C. |
| 1938–1940 | Submarine Division Twelve, Commander |
| 1941 | Promoted to Captain, July 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1940–1942 | Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, Staff, Correspondence Course |
| 1942–1943 | USS *New York* (BB 34), Commanding Officer |
| 1943–1946 | Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, Staff, Strategy Department |
| 1946–1947 | U.S. Naval Hospital, Newport, Rhode Island |
| 1947 | Retired List, U.S. Navy, with rank of Rear Admiral, January 1 |
| 1979 | Died, July 18, Providence, Rhode Island |

## Description of Papers

Rear Admiral Scott Umsted of Jamestown, Rhode Island presented his papers as a gift to the Naval War College Foundation for deposit in the Naval Historical Collection in April 1978.

The collection consists of ten boxes that are divided into eleven series, representing both the papers of the admiral and his mother, Katherine Scott Umsted, a writer of fiction, poetry, and travel accounts. Series I, Correspondence, is divided into two subseries: official correspondence, letters both sent and received, 1917–1951, regarding Umsted's naval career; and personal correspondence, letters both and sent and received, 1908–1971. The latter contains correspondence mainly with his mother regarding his experiences as a naval officer on the Yangtze Patrol in China, 1923–1924; hydrographic research in the USS *Niagara*, 1927–1930; his command of the USS *Tillman*, 1932–1933; and duty in USS *Raleigh,* 1933–1935, where he served as temporary beachmaster, the Canal Zone.

Series II, Writings, contain his Naval War College thesis entitled "Tactics and Command," 1926, and unattributed writings on submarines as a means of polar explorations, the German Submarine in the Battle of Jutland, The U.S. Navy Charts the Gulf of Panama, and The Chungking, Wanhsein Interlude by Rear Admiral Kemp Tolley.

Series III, Reports, has the survey of Port La Unión, El Salvador, Central America, and Approaches of 1928.

Series IV, Miscellany, houses menus, programs, booklets on historic military topics, newspaper clippings, published journals, museum catalogues, pamphlets, receipts, invitations, Umsted's Naval Academy grades, a watercolor painting of Seville, Spain, photographs, a map of the Philippine Islands, a chart of Port La Unión, El Salvador, Christmas cards sent and received, a diary, a court case regarding Mrs. Umsted's permission to carry a concealed weapon (1933), postcards, U.S. Naval Academy bulletins, programs, and instructions for graduation in 1915.

Series V, Photographs, consists of family photographs, photographs of U.S. Navy ships, including the USS *Niagara*, aerial views of Panama's coastline, U.S. naval officers, the 1913 University of Pennsylvania-U.S. Naval Academy football game, the West Indies, Scotland, China, Seville, Spain, Charles Lindbergh and his plane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, unidentified people, places, street scenes, and several negatives.

The following series contain the papers of Katherine Scott Umsted ( ?–1934). Series VI houses her unpublished writings that include stories, plays, travel writings, and poems. Series VII contains her published travel writings in *The Cunarder* and *The Nomad*. Series VIII, Miscellany, contains pamphlets, reports of clubs and associations of which she was a member, travel brochures and literary items, including bulletins, calendars, certificates of copyright

registration, and announcements. Series IX, Photographs, has unidentified people, places, and scenes of Jaen, Spain. Series X, Newspaper Clippings, has notices of social and literary events and her February 1934 obituary from *The New York Times*. Series XI, Personal and Travel Diaries, contains accounts of her travels in the Caribbean, Hawaii, Europe, China, the Philippines, and the United States, as well as a personal daily diary.

## ARRANGEMENT OF PAPERS
## Manuscript Collection 55

### Series I
### Correspondence, 1917–1971

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | 1 | Official Correspondence, Letters sent, March 2, 1917–October 23, 1917–1926 |
| | 2 | Official Correspondence, Letters sent, August 1–15, 1931–December 14, 1932 |
| | 3 | Official Correspondence, Letters sent, January 23, 1933–October 29, 1934 |
| | 4 | Official Correspondence, Letters received, July 11, 1924–December 5, 1932 |
| | 5 | Official Correspondence, Letters received, January 19, 1933–October 25, 1934 |
| | 6 | Official Correspondence, Letters received, June 12, 1942–March 9, 1951 |
| | 7 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, September 13, 1941–July 8, 1917 |
| | 8 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, July 18, 1917–September 13, 1917 |
| | 9 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, January 3, 1918–January 28, 1918 |
| | 10 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, February 16, 1918–March 11, 1918 |
| **2** | 1 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, March 14, 1918–April, 10, 1918 |
| | 2 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, May 12, 1918–June 16, 1918 |
| | 3 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, June 18, 1918–August 14, 1918 |
| | 4 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, August 19, 1918–September 13, 1918 |
| | 5 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, September 23, 1918–October 21, 1918 |
| | 6 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, October 22, 1918–November 19, 1918 |
| | 7 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, November 23, 1918–December 10, 1918 |
| | 8 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, January 1, 1919–August 14, 1920 |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| **2** | 9 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, August 17, 1920–September 22, 1920 |
| | 10 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, May 22, 1921–August 4, 1923 |
| **3** | 1 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, September 1, 1923–October 9, 1923 |
| | 2 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, November 8, 1923–December 31, 1923 |
| | 3 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, January 10, 1924–March 16, 1924 |
| | 4 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, April 6, 1924–June 29, 1924 |
| | 5 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, July 5, 1924–August 24, 1924 |
| | 6 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, September 8, 1924–October 28, 1924 |
| | 7 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, January 1, 1926–December 29, 1926 |
| | 8 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, January 7, 1927–March 6, 1927 |
| | 9 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, September 17, 1931–December 27, 1933 |
| | 10 | Personal Correspondence, Letters sent, January 22, 1934–May 24, 1947 |
| **4** | 1 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, December 19, 1910–April 4, 1917 |
| | 2 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, April 17, 1918–December 26, 1918 |
| | 3 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, December 30, 1919–January 21, 1920 |
| | 4 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, February 10, 1921–February 28, 1921 |
| | 5 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, March 4, 1921–March 18, 1921 |
| | 6 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, March 21, 1921–March 30, 1921 |
| | 7 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, April 4, 1921–September 16, 1921 |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| **4** | 8 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, March 22, 1922–December 10, 1928 |
| | 9 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, July 3, 1932–December 26, 1933 |
| | 10 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, February 3, 1934–February 19, 1934 |
| | 11 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, February 20, 1934–January 27, 1938 |
| | 12 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, June 1942–June 18, 1947 |
| | 13 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, July 11, 1950–December 27, 1954 |
| | 14 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received, April 17, 1955–November 6, 1955 |
| | 15 | Personal Correspondence, Letters received from son Truxtun Umsted, January 20, 1956–February 19, 1971. |
| | 16 | Memoranda, U.S. Fleet, Battle Force, October 16, 1934 |
| | 17 | Letter sent, George Hay Kaen Jr. to John C. McCartney, September 30, 1955 |

## Series II
## Writings, Undated–1926

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **5** | 1 | The Submarine as a means of Polar Explorations, n.d. 2 copies; German Submarine Operations and Mine Fields, Battle of Jutland, n.d.; *UB-65* vs. *AL-2*, A Strange Undersea Battle, n.d.; The American Navy Charts the Gulf of Panama, n.d. 2 copies |
| | 2 | Tactics and Command, Naval War College Thesis, Junior Class of 1926 |
| | 3 | Chungking, Wanhsein Interlude by RADM Kemp Tolley, n.d. |

## Series III
## Reports, 1928

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 | USS *Niagara*, Survey of Port la Unión, Salvador, Central America and Approaches, 18 September 1928 |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|

## Series IV
## Miscellany, 1902–1963

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **5** | 1 | Menus, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1910, 1928, 1929 |
| | 2 | Programs, undated, 1904–1927 |
| | 3 | Booklets; Extract from a Manuscript Journal relating to the Siege of Quebec in 1759 kept by Colonel Malcolm Fraser; "Drummond's Winter Campaign," 1913 by E. Cruikshank; "What Caused the Deportation of the Acadians?" by James Finney Baxter, 1899; The Parish Guest, No. 104, Lent, 1918, St. Stephen's Parish, Wilkes-Barre, PA; "Conditions and Needs of Our Navy," 1815, by Captains David Porter and John Rodgers |
| | 4 | Newspaper Clippings, 1915 |
| | 5 | Newspaper Clippings, 1927, 1932 |
| | 6 | Published Journals, *The Mariner*, 1932 (2 copies) Catalogues: A Catalogue of a Special Exhibition of Manuscripts, Books, Portraits and Personal Relics of Nathaniel Bowditch (1773–1838), Peabody Museum, May 15–September 15, 1937 |
| | 7 | Pamphlet *USS* Frederick, *Olympic Cruise, August–September 1920*; Diplomatic List, Department of State, March 1927; Liberty Song Book; A Message to Garcia by Elbert Hubbard; The Silly Syclopedia |
| | 8 | Receipts, 1866–1931 |
| | 9 | Invitations, 1891–1954 |
| | 10 | Academic Grades, 1903–1906, 1911–1915 |
| | 11 | Physical Examination Report, Camp Yapeechu, Milford, PA, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1907 |
| | 12 | Watercolor painting of Seville, Spain and of a boat, photograph of monks, 1902, and of Maria Buyafillon, 1917 |
| | 13 | Syllabus, Physics Seminar, University of Rhode Island, Spring 1963 |
| | 14 | Map of the Philippine Islands, 1921 |
| | 15 | Chart of Port La Unión, El Salvador, n.d. |
| **6** | 1 | Christmas cards sent, n.d. |
| | 2 | Christmas cards received, n.d. |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| **6** | 3 | Diary, 1918 |
| | 4 | Court of Claims petitions, April 13, 1930; Plaintiff's Exception to the Commissioner's Report and Brief, September 12, 1930; Plaintiff's Brief in reply, October 28, 1930; Permission given to Mrs. Scott Umsted to purchase a concealed weapon, Buncombe County, NC, September 18, 1933 |
| | 5 | U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1915, Instructions; Program, 1936 |
| | 6 | Bulletin of U.S. Naval Academy, January 1957; Special Order, 1955 |
| | 7 | Postcards of the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean Islands |

## Series V
## Photographs

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **7** | 1 | Photographs of unidentified U.S. Navy Ships and Personnel including Umsted; University of Pennsylvania-Navy Game, October 28, 1913 |
| | 2 | Photographs of unidentified naval officer |
| | 3 | Photographs of USS *Niagar*a (SP-136) and aerial views of Panama's coastline and Pacheca Island |
| | 4 | Family photographs |
| | 5 | Photographs of Saba, Netherlands Antilles |
| | 6 | Photographs of the West Indies |
| | 7 | Photographs of Scotland |
| | 8 | Photographs of China |
| | 9 | Photographs of Seville, Spain |
| | 10 | Photographs of Charles Lindbergh and *The Spirit of Saint Louis* |
| | 11 | Photographs of unidentified people, places and street scenes |
| | 12 | Negatives |

## Series VI
## Unpublished Writings of Katherine Umsted, undated

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **8** | 1 | Untitled and undated writings; Like a Man; The Anchor of Columbus; In Suspension; Underneath; Above; Florence; Venice |
| | 2 | Diplomatic Relations, a one-act play, three drafts |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| **8** | 3 | Why? Felicity; Three Visions; When the Gods Laughed; The Merchant of Venice Returns; Both Sides |
| | 4 | The Golden Spoon |
| | 5 | The Golden Spoon |
| | 6 | When Instant Obedience Was Imperative; Barbados; George Washington; Pursuing Patriots; George Washington in Barbados; The Lesser Antilles; Metropolitan Lover; True to Form; A Chinese Mill; Concerning a Passport |
| | 7 | Wig-Wagging; East End; Like a Man; The Most Exciting Time in St. Thomas, Whatever Was; Fifteen Thousand Dollars; Temperament; True to Form |
| | 8 | Untitled Poems; Poems for Valentine's Day; In Loss There Is a Gain; Heavenly Guarantee: In Union Square; It's Luncheon at Home, The Same but Different; Why They Quarreled; The Chinese Coolie; Spring or Easter Greeting; Longing; The Answer; At Night; Realization; Sunrise and Moonset; The Metropolitan Tower; Human Nature; Foiled |
| | 9 | Unpublished Travel Writings; Le Jardin et les Rues de Fort de France; Martinique; The Grand Opera visits Fort de France; Barbados; Three Funerals; Saba; St. Kitts; The American and British Virgin Islands; Grenada, the Island of Nutmegs; and Tobago |
| | 10 | Tortola or Turtle Dove; Caribes; Saint Eustatius; Saba, the Little Island of Three Names; The Smallest Island Has Three Names; Untitled; Antigua, Montserrat and Redonda; and Dominica |
| **9** | 1 | Unpublished Writings, St. Martin, A Conjugated Island; The Dutch West Indies; From My Balcony at St. Kitts; Nevis; St. Kitts and Nevis; |
| | 2 | Our Philippine Wonderland; St. Lucia; Untitled Pages; Trinidad; Saint Vincent; The Grenadines; Barbados; The Islands of "The Bims" |

## Series VII
## Published Writings of Katherine Scott Umsted, 1929–1930

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 3 | Published Writings: "Why?", "Passport Particularities," *The Nomad*, Vol. 5, No. 5, April 1929, p. 32; "George Washington in Barbados," *The Mentor*, Vol. 17, No. 6, July 1929, p. 61; "Through the Lake County," *The Cunarder*, Vol. 17, No. 6, June 1930, pp. 10 & 11, "Sojourn in Martinique," *The Cunarder*, Vol. 18, No. 4, October 1930, pp. 10 & 11. |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|

## Series VIII
## Miscellany, 1896–1933

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **9** | 1 | Edwin Willard Deming, edited by Henry Collins Walsh, compiler. Therese O. Deming, 1925; Montreuil-Sur-Mer (Pas-de-Calais) by Henri Potez, 1896, with illustrations by Augustin Boutique |
| | 2 | Thirty–Second Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America, March 1922–March 1923; Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America, March 1924–March 1925; American Women's Club of Shanghai, China, 1924–1925 |
| | 3 | Tour Brochures for select summer tours, 1913–1914; Guidebook to Montreuil-Sur-Mer, 1905 |
| | 4 | Literary items, including The Little Theater Far East announcement, 1922; The Pen and Brush Yearbook, 1920–1921; The Pen and Brush Calendar, November 1925, November 1929, April 1930, October–November 1930; Bulletin, The National Arts Club, December, 1929, May 1933; Certificate of Copyright Registration, February 8, 1917, for "Diplomatic Relations." |
| | 5 | Chinese Decorated Paper and Sign |

## Series IX
## Photographs, undated–1926

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 | Unidentified Photographs of individuals, places, a dance, and a reading room; Photograph of portrait of Mary Dale Clarke; Scenes of Jaen, Spain, 1926 |

## Series X
## Newspaper Clippings, undated–1934

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 | Newspaper Clippings, undated, and in 1922, some regarding social and literary events; Obituary of Katherine Scott Umsted, *The New York Times*, February 3, 1934 |

## Series XI
## Diaries and Travel Accounts, 1912–1934

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **10** | 1 | Diary, 1917–1918, 1921, 1933–1934 |
| | 2 | Travel Account, Bermuda, Boston, Norfolk, VA, and Eastville,VA, N.D. |
| | 3 | Travel Accounts, The Caribbean, Hawaii, and the Pacific Coast, 1921, 1927 |
| | 4 | Travel Accounts, Europe, 1912 |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| **10** | 5 | Travel Accounts, Europe, The Mediterranean and North Africa, 1913 |
| | 6 | Travel Accounts, China, 1923–1924 |
| | 7 | Travel Accounts, The Philippines, 1923–1924 |