

# Guide to the Henry C. Taylor papers

GEN MSS 1743



by Emma Gronbeck

September 2021

P. O. Box 208330  
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(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1743

**CREATOR:** Taylor, Henry C. (Henry Calhoun), 1894-1971

**TITLE:** Henry C. Taylor papers

**DATES:** 1938-1971

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.25 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English, Latin, and Dutch.

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains correspondence, financial records, photographs, and other research materials documenting the creation of Henry C. Taylor's collection of 410 rare books, medieval manuscripts, maritime atlases, and incunabula on the science of navigation and history of exploration. Also included are drafts and related correspondence for several bibliographies of his collection compiled by three different bibliographers, including John S. Keabian's *The Henry C. Taylor Collection* (Yale University Library, 1971), and materials related to Taylor's publication of a transcribed edition of John Rolfe's *A True Relation of the State of Virginia*.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.taylorhenryc>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

Bequest of Henry C. Taylor, 1971.

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Henry C. Taylor Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Henry C. Taylor Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing. This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

An additional 0.5 linear feet of materials was added to the collection during processing, in October 2021.

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## Separated Materials

Rare printed material and autograph manuscripts bequeathed with these papers are described in John S. Kebabian, "The Henry C. Taylor Collection" (New Haven, 1971). After receipt, the manuscripts and printed items were separated from the papers for individual cataloging. Records for the 14 manuscripts can be retrieved by searching the library's online catalog for the phrase: Bequest of Henry C Taylor. Records for 396 printed items can be retrieved by searching the library's online catalog for local call numbers Taylor 15 through Taylor 410.

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## Henry C. Taylor

Henry C. Taylor (1894-1971) was an American textile merchant, yachtsman, and collector of rare books and manuscripts. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Taylor graduated from Yale University in 1917 and served in the Navy during both World Wars as a lieutenant and then as a lieutenant commander. He became president of Taylor, Pinkham & Co. in 1945 and director of J.P. Stevens & Co. in 1952. He lived in Cold Spring Harbor, New York, for much of his life.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, financial records, photographs, and other research materials documenting the creation of Henry C. Taylor's collection of 410 rare books, medieval manuscripts, maritime atlases, and incunabula on the science of navigation and history of exploration. Also included are drafts and related correspondence for several bibliographies of his collection compiled by three different

bibliographers, including John S. Kebabian's *The Henry C. Taylor Collection* (Yale University Library, 1971), and materials related to Taylor's publication of a transcribed edition of John Rolfe's *A True Relation of the State of Virginia*.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence and Financial Papers, 1938-1971. II. Bibliographies, 1965-1971.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence and Financial Papers, 1938–1971

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

This series contains correspondence between Henry C. Taylor and various colleagues and rare book dealers discussing the acquisition and provenance of rare books, atlases, medieval manuscripts, and incunabula. Also included are invoices and receipts for manuscript purchases, research materials and bibliographic records, photographs, and several files related to a transcribed and edited edition of John Rolfe's *A True Relation of the State of Virginia*, published by Taylor.

Arranged alphabetically by file title.

#### Correspondence by name

b. 1, f. 1	Crone, Ernst	1956–1964
b. 1, f. 2	Israel, Nico	1953–1968
b. 1, f. 3	Marston, Thomas E.	1969–1970
b. 1, f. 4	National Maritime Museum (London)	1963–1970
b. 1, f. 5	Taylor, Henry Stillman	1945–1959
b. 1, f. 6	William H. Robinson, Ltd.	1947–1954
b. 1, f. 7	Wroth, Lawrence C. (The John Carter Brown Library)	1944–1958
b. 1, f. 8	Yale University Library	1943–1968

#### Correspondence by topic

b. 1, f. 9	Bay Psalm book	1947–1961
b. 1, f. 10	Blaeu, <i>Sea-Mirrour</i>	1969
b. 1, f. 11	Cunningham, <i>Cosmographical Glasse, 1559.</i>	1951
b. 1, f. 12	Montalboddo, <i>Itinerarium Portugallensium</i>	1949–1950
b. 1, f. 13	Seller, John, <i>Coasting Pilot</i>	1958–1960
b. 1, f. 14	"Thresoor atlas"	1965
b. 1, f. 15	"Vinland Map"	1966
b. 1, f. 16	Waghenaer, "Map of Enchuisen"	1971

#### General correspondence by author or title

b. 1, f. 17	"A"	1944–1956
b. 1, f. 18	"B"	1944–1968
b. 1, f. 19	"C"	1944–1969
b. 1, f. 20	"D"	1947–1957

## General correspondence by author or title (continued)

b. 1, f. 21	"F"	1947-1953
b. 1, f. 22	"G"	1944-1949, undated
b. 1, f. 23	"H"	1940-1943
b. 1, f. 24	"J"	undated
b. 1, f. 25	"L"	1945
b. 1, f. 26	"M"	1944-1955
b. 1, f. 27	"N-O"	undated
b. 1, f. 28	"P-Q"	1938-1959
b. 1, f. 29	"R"	1943-1947
b. 1, f. 30	"S"	1943-1958
b. 1, f. 31	"T-V"	1938-1946
b. 1, f. 32-33	"W"	1941-1965
b. 2, f. 34	"Z"	undated
b. 2, f. 35	Unsorted	1945-1970
b. 2, f. 36	Greepe, Thomas, <i>The True and Perfecte Newes of the Woorthy and Valiaunt Exploytes, Performed and Doone by That Valiant Knight Syr Frauncis Drake: Not Onely at Sancto Domingo, and Carthagen, But Also Nowe at Cales, and Vppon the Coast of Spaine, 1587</i> , edited by David W. Waters, draft, typescript, with correspondence	1955 January 7
b. 2, f. 37-39	Invoices	1938-1970
b. 2, f. 40	Manuscript lists and bibliographic records	undated
b. 2, f. 41	Manuscript photostats and photographs, with correspondence	1943-1946
	Rolfe, John, <i>A True Relation of the State of Virginia lefte by Sir Thomas Dale, Kt., in May Last, 1616</i> , print edition edited by Henry C. Taylor	
b. 2, f. 42-43	Correspondence and introduction drafts	1948-1952
b. 2, f. 44-45	Gift copy mailing list and thank-you letters	1951-1954
b. 2, f. 46	Clippings	1951 November
b. 2, f. 47	<i>A Splendid Portolan Atlas by Francesco Ghisolfi of Genoa in a Magnificent Luxuriously Decorated Mid-Sixteenth Century Binding with the Combined Arms of the Medici and Austria</i> , manuscript description	undated

**Series II: Bibliographies, 1965–1971***1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series consists of correspondence, drafts, page proofs, and research materials for several bibliographies of the Henry C. Taylor Collection, compiled by John S. Kebabian, Rivan Alkemade, and Louis H. Silverstein.

Arranged alphabetically by file title.

b. 3, f. 48-51	Bibliography, circa 1474 to 1685, draft, typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 52	Bibliography of atlases, incunabula, and manuscripts, 1596-1610, compiled by [John S. Kebabian?], drafts, typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 53	Bibliography of atlases, incunabula, and manuscripts, 1611-1631, compiled by [John S. Kebabian?], drafts, typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 54	"H. C. Taylor Collection, Descriptions of Atlases" by Rivan Alkemade, draft, typescript	1965 October– 1966 February
Kebabian, John S., <i>The Henry C. Taylor Collection</i>		
b. 3, f. 55	Correspondence and notes	1970–1971
b. 3, f. 56	Draft	1970
b. 4, f. 57-58	Drafts	1970–1971
b. 4, f. 59-62	Page proofs	1971
b. 4, f. 63	Research material, photographs	undated
Silverstein, Louis H., bibliography		
b. 4, f. 64	Correspondence and drafts	1966
b. 4, f. 65	"1281 to 1539," draft, typescript	circa 1966
b. 5, f. 66	"1540 to 1589," draft, typescript	circa 1966
b. 5, f. 67-68	"1590 to 1631," draft, typescript	circa 1966
b. 5, f. 69	"1632 to 1937," draft, typescript	circa 1966
b. 5, f. 70	Untitled bibliography, draft, typescript (photostatic copy)	undated
b. 5, f. 71-72	Untitled bibliography, draft, corrected	undated
b. 5, f. 73b. 6, f. 74-75	Unsorted notes and reference material	1965, undated



## **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**

Bibliography  
Discoveries in geography  
Early maps  
Incunabula  
Manuscripts -- Collectors and collecting  
Navigation  
Rare books -- Collectors and collecting

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographs

### **Names**

Kebabian, John S.  
Rolfe, John, 1585-1622  
Taylor, Henry C. (Henry Calhoun), 1894-1971