

**Guide to the Thomas F. Rowland Collection, 1861-1910
Catalog Number MS376**

The Library at The Mariners' Museum

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Library at The Mariners' Museum

Title: Thomas F. Rowland Collection, 1861-1903

Catalog number: MS376

Accession number: A2005.42

Physical Characteristics: 58 items

Language(s): English

Creator(s): Various

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection is composed of contracts, drawings, a photograph album, notes, and a patent primarily pertaining to the construction of the United States Navy ironclad USS *Monitor* at Continental Iron Works in Green Point, New York. While the majority of the materials within this collection date from 1861 and 1862, there are items dating from 1863 to 1908. The Rowland Collection also features drawings of the ironclad *Caatskill*, the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia*, and plans of the Continental Iron Works facilities.

Comprising the majority of the Rowland Collection are 47 original ink-on-linen drawings of the *Monitor*. The contents of these drawings vary, as do the levels of detail and perspectives. General plans such as deck plans, profiles and sectional views are included as are more detailed plans for riveting arrangements, gun carriages and the propeller wheel. In addition to these items, there are four drawings that do not pertain specifically to the *Monitor*. These include a drawing of deck plates of the ironclad USS *Caatskill*, a general plan of the CSS *Virginia*, and two plans for the layout of the Continental Iron Works.

Also included in the Rowland Collection are two contracts outlining the financing and construction of the *Monitor*; a sheet of notes, on Continental Iron Works stationary; an 1863 patent for a drilling bolt holes in turrets; and a 1903 photographic album depicting individuals and Continental Iron Works facilities associated with the construction of *Monitor*.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession number

A2005.42

Accession date

2005

Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Thomas F. Rowland Collection, 1861-1903: MS376
The Library at The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia

Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with proscribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

Two paintings George Rowland and his wife, Ruth, lithographs, and prints relating to Thomas Rowland, Continental Iron Works, and the *Monitor* have been removed to the Collections Department of The Mariners' Museum.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Thomas Fitch Rowland was born in New Haven, Connecticut on March 15, 1831. From 1848 to 1850 he worked as an engineer and fireman for the New Haven and New York Railroad. Subsequently, Rowland accepted a position as second assistant engineer on the steamboat *Connecticut*. Rowland worked as a draughtsman for the Allaire Works in New York City, from 1851 to 1853, and from 1853 to 1857 he was the superintendent of the Atlantic Dock Iron Works in Brooklyn, New York. In 1859, Rowland established the Continental Iron Works at Green Point, New York. When the Civil War began, Rowland's company was engaged by John Ericsson to build the U.S. Navy ironclad *Monitor*. Construction of the ironclad began in October 1861 and the *Monitor* was launched on January 30, 1862. During the course of the Civil War, the Continental Iron Works built seven additional monitor-type ironclad ships for the U.S. Navy including the USS *Passaic* and the USS *Montauk*. Rowland ran Continental Iron Works until his death on December 13, 1907, in New York City.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

This collection is arranged in two series: Papers and Drawings. Due to the size and nature of the materials, the series of papers are stored separate of the series of drawings. The Drawings series comprises the majority of materials within the collection.

Series I: Papers.

This series is arranged in alphabetical order according to material-type. It is comprised of an album, two contracts, envelopes, a data sheet, and a patent.

Series II: Drawings.

This series is arranged by category according to each drawing's function and thereunder alphabetically by drawing title. Bracketed titles are descriptive titles assigned either by Ernest Peterkin or at the time of processing. Non-bracketed titles are taken directly from the drawing. The categories are as follows:

- General plans and arrangements
- Main engine, shafting and propeller
- Ordnance
- Stern arrangements, main deck armor and anchor well

- Transverse sections and bulkheads
- Turret
- Non-USS *Monitor*

Ernest W. Peterkin created all of these categories (except the Non-USS *Monitor* category) for use in his comprehensive study of *Monitor*-related drawings titled *Drawings of the USS Monitor: A Catalog and Technical Analysis*, published in 1985. These categories were selected since they successfully organize the variety of material included in the collection. Furthermore, Peterkin's study is a widely used resource for schematic information on *Monitor*, so it is likely that many researchers in the field will be familiar with this organization system. The Non-USS *Monitor* category was created at the time of processing to represent the few items that do not pertain to *Monitor*.

FILE/FOLDER LISTING:

BOX 1: PAPERS

Folder 1 Finding Aid

Folder 2 Background File

Folder 3 Album, December 1903

Twenty-page album; *Illustrations of Old Time Scenes and Some "Old Timers, Presented with Compliments of Thomas Fitch Rowland to George W. Quintard, Esq."* George W. Quintard was a naval architect who worked closely with Rowland on the construction of Monitors at Continental Iron Works. The album primarily features images of individuals and places connected with the construction of *Monitor* and subsequent ironclads. It also features images of other engineering projects on which Rowland served, such as the ferries *Fulton* and *Farragut* as well as the Croton Aqueduct spanning New York's Harlem River.

[MS376.01.03.01]

MS376.01.03 p01: George W. Quintard [Photograph of engraving]

MS376.01.03 p02: [Thomas F. Rowland] Photograph

MS376.01.03 p03: "Alpha and Omega: Engineers—in Chief, U.S. Navy Department, 1845-1903." [Photograph]

MS376.01.03 p04: Captain John Ericsson [Photograph of engraving]

MS376.01.03 p05.1: John A. Griswold [Photograph of engraving]

MS376.01.03 p05.2: John F. Winslow [Photograph of engraving]

MS376.01.03 p06: "John Lenthall, Esq., The Naval Contractor"
[Photograph]

MS376.01.03 p07: Rear Admiral Gregory [Photograph]

MS376.01.03 p08: John L. Worden [Photograph]

MS376.01.03 p09: USS *Monitor* Plans

MS376.01.03 p10.1: "U.S. Iron Clad War Vessel *Puritan*" [Photograph]

- MS376.01.03 p10.2:** “Constructing the *Kaatskill* and commencing the *Onondaga*, Building by Thomas F. Rowland.” [Photograph]
- MS376.01.03 p11.1:** Continental Iron Works, Green Point, Brooklyn [Photograph of a lithograph]
- MS376.01.03 p11.2:** “Building Ferryboats *Fulton* and *Farragut*, Engines by George W. Quintard, Esq.” [Photograph]
- MS376.01.03 p12.1:** “Lieutenant Worden Taking Command of the *Monitor* at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.” [Photograph of a drawing]
- MS376.01.03 p12.2:** “The Ericsson *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*, engaged off Fortress Monroe, March 9th, 1862.” [Photograph of a painting]
- MS376.01.03 p13:** “Thomas F. Rowland built Ericsson’s Original *Monitor* in this shiphouse, and subsequently, Ericsson’s *Monitor Passaic*.” [Photograph shows the monitors *Passaic* and *Montauk* under construction]
- MS376.01.03 p14:** “The Ironclad Double Turreted Monitor *Onondaga*, under way at sea. [Photograph of painting]
- MS376.01.03 p15:** “Captain John Maginn, An Old Time Pilot” [Photograph]
- MS376.01.03 p16:** “Erecting the Wrought Iron Tube on the ‘High Bridge’ to Connect the Croton Aqueduct at Harlem River.” [Photograph]
- MS376.01.03 p17:** “Installing the Wrought Iron Pipe, 7½ ft. internal diameter and about one-quarter mile long, connecting The Croton Aqueduct upon each side of the Harlem River. Undertaking accomplished by T.F. Rowland, Constructing Engineer, 1859-1860.” [Two Photographs]

Folder 4

Contract, October 1861

October 4, 1861: Washington, DC. USS *Monitor*

Five-page, typescript contract detailing the terms for construction of the *Monitor* and formalizing the U.S. Navy’s commitment to build John Ericsson’s “battery.” This document outlines *Monitor*’s dimensions; specifications of her masts, rigging, sails, speed and condenser; associated costs and payment process; and construction schedule. The named parties are John Ericsson, John F. Winslow, John A. Griswold and, on behalf of the US Navy, Gideon Welles. [MS376.01.04.01]

Envelope, Undated

[Undated]: Continental Iron Works, Green Point, New York

The envelope was used to house the typescript contract to construct the *Monitor*. [MS376.01.04.02]

Folder 5

Contract, October 1861

October 25, 1861: Green Point, New York, USS *Monitor*

Three-page, handwritten contract concerning the construction of *Monitor*. The contract states that the *Monitor* will be built at Continental Iron Works in Green Point, New York; specifies that Continental Iron Works

will provide tools, facilities, and labor to build the hull and assemble *Monitor*; and outlines payment amounts and schedules. It also indicates that John Ericsson can demand that more workers be hired if he is not happy with the pace of construction and make alterations to *Monitor*'s design at any point in the construction process. The signing parties are John Ericsson, John F. Winslow, John A. Griswold and, on behalf of Continental Iron Works, Thomas F. Rowland. [MS376.01.05.01]

Envelope, Undated

[Undated]: Continental Iron Works, Green Point, New York
The envelope was used to house the original contract between T.F. Rowland and John Ericsson. [MS376.01.05.02]

Envelope, Undated

[Undated]: Guaranty Safe Deposit Company, New York
The envelope was used to house the original contract between T.F. Rowland and John Ericsson. [MS376.01.05.03]

Folder 6

Data Sheet, March 1908

March 13, 1908: Continental Iron Works, New York
One-page, hand-written document on Continental Iron Works letterhead noting significant dates in *Monitor*'s construction as well as certain dimensions and thickness of armor plates. [MS376.01.06.01]

Folder 7

Patent, May 1863

May 13, 1863: Washington, DC
Four-page document, patent number 38.605, issued to Thomas Rowland for "improvement in drilling bolt holes in turrets of gun boats." Includes an ink-on-linen drawing of the technique and is accompanied by Rowland's handwritten explanation. [MS376.01.07.01]
NOTE: This item is stored within the Flat Files: Drawings.

FLAT FILES: DRAWINGS

General Plans and Arrangements

MS376.47 **Capt. John Ericsson's U.S. Iron Clad Steamer *Monitor*, General Plan**
Date: January 1862
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 15 3/8 in. x 48 in.
Scale: 3/16 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 16

- MS376.23** **Ericsson's Battery**
Date: October 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 11½ in. x 33 in.
Scale: 3/16 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 12
- MS376.46** **Untitled, [Framing plan and inboard profile]**
Date: October 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 13 in. x 32 3/8 in.
Scale: 3/16 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 11

- MS376.44** **Original *Monitor***
Date: October 7, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 18 in. x 35 in.
Scale: 3/16 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 9

- MS376.45** **Original *Monitor***
Date: October 7, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 17½ in. x 35 1/8 in.
Scale: 3/16 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 10

Main Engine, Shafting and Propeller

- MS376.18** **Propeller Wheel, Ericsson Battery *Monitor*, Continental Irons Works, Green Point**
Date: [October 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 10 3/8 in. x 14 7/8 in.
Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 131
- MS376.19** **Propeller Wheel, Ericsson Battery *Monitor*, Continental Irons Works, Green Point**
Date: [October 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 11¾ in. x 15¼ in.
Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 132

Ordnance

MS376.42 Ericsson Battery, Frames, Gun Carriage

Date: [October 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 8¼ in. x 34¾ in.

Scale: 3 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 189

MS376.43 Ericsson Battery, Frames, Gun Carriage

Date: [October 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 8¼ in. x 34¾ in.

Scale: 3 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 190

Stern Arrangements, Main Deck and Armor Well

MS376.39 Battery – rudder stern braces & etc., December 1861

Date: December 1861

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 15 in. x 35 in.

Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 89

MS376.14 Untitled, [Deck light locations]

Date: December 1861

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 8 in. x 18 in.

Scale: None listed

Peterkin file number: 96

MS376.15 Untitled, [Deck light locations]

Date: December 1861

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 8¼ in. x 18 in.

Scale: None listed

Peterkin file number: 97

MS376.49 The Ericsson Battery, Plate Box Over Propeller

Date: [December 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 11½ in. x 41¼ in.

Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 92

MS376.48 **The Ericsson Battery, Plate Box Over Propeller, December 1861 (est.)**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 11 1/8 in. x 43 3/8 in.
Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 93

MS376.40 **Ericsson Battery, Plate Box Over Propeller**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 23½ in. x 17¾ in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 94

MS376.41 **Ericsson Battery, Plate Box Over Propeller**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 23¾ in. x 17¾ in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 95

MS376.16 **Position of Rivets in Well Hole Cover of Capt. Ericsson's Battery**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 13¾ in. x 12½ in.
Scale: None listed
Peterkin file number: 98

MS376.17 **Position of Rivets in Well Hole Cover of Capt. Ericsson's Battery**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 15½ in. x 13 in.
Scale: None listed
Peterkin file number: 99

Traverse Sections and Bulkheads

MS376.05 **Untitled, [Anchor well and boatswain's lockers]**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 11¼ in. x 12¼ in.
Scale: None listed
Peterkin file number: 76

- MS376.37** **Battery, Engine Bulkheads**, November 1861 (est.)
Date: [November 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 25¼ in. x 9 7/8 in.
Scale: None listed
Peterkin file number: 82
- MS376.38** **Battery, Engine Bulkheads**
Date: [November 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 26 in. x 9 5/8 in.
Scale: None listed
Peterkin file number: 83
- MS376.03** **Untitled, [Bulwark and armor construction at bow and stern]**
Date: December 3, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 14 ¾ in. x 18 in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 74
- MS376.04** **Untitled, [Bulwark and armor construction at bow and stern]**
Date: December 3, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 15¼ in. x 18½ in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 75
- MS376.33** **Untitled, [Bulwark bracket riveting diagram]**, October 7, 1861
Date: October 7, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 16½ in. x 25 in.
Scale: 3 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 63
- MS376.34** **Untitled, [Bulwark bracket riveting diagram]**
Date: October 7, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 19¼ in. x 25 in.
Scale: 3 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 64

MS376.32 Deck Beam Brackets, Stanchions and Diagonal Braces

Date: [October 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 22 3/8 in. x 31 3/4 in.

Scale: No scale listed

Peterkin file number: 61

MS376.08 Untitled, [Engine bulkheads and keelsons]

Date: [November 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 14 in. x 22 3/4 in.

Scale: 3/4 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 79

MS376.09 Untitled, [Engine bulkheads and keelsons]

Date: [November 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 13 1/4 in. x 22 1/2 in.

Scale: No scale listed

Peterkin file number: 80

MS376.06 Engine Bulkheads of the Ericsson *Monitor*

Date: [November 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 10 1/2 in. x 23 5/8 in.

Scale: 3/4 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 77

MS376.07 Engine Bulkheads of the Ericsson *Monitor*

Date: [November 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 10 1/2 in. x 23 5/8 in.

Scale: 3/4 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 78

MS376.10 Ericsson battery – aft bulkhead and coal bunkers

Date: [November 1861]

Medium: Black and colored ink on linen

Size: 13 5/8 in. x 18 in.

Scale: 3/8 in. = 1 ft.

Peterkin file number: 84

- MS376.11 Ericsson Battery, Aft Bulkhead and Coal Bunkers**
Date: [November 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 12½ in. x 17½ in.
Scale: 3/8 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 85
- MS376.01 Ericsson Battery, Bulwark**
Date: [October 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 11½ in. x 15½ in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 66
- MS376.02 Ericsson Battery, Bulwark**
Date: [October 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 12 in. x 15 7/8 in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 67
- MS376.35 Ericsson Battery, Bulwarks and Armor at Bow and Stern**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 16¼ in. x 23 in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 72
- MS376.36 Ericsson Battery, Bulwarks and Armor at Bow and Stern**
Date: [December 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 17 in. x 24½ in.
Scale: 1½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 73
- MS376.26 The Ericsson Battery, Main Bulkhead Forward Side**
Date: [October 15, 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 18½ in. x 28½ in.
Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 52
- MS376.26 The Ericsson Battery, Main Bulkhead Forward Side**
Date: [October 15, 1861]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 18½ in. x 28 in.

Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 53

- MS376.28** **Untitled, [Main bulkhead, forward side]**
Date: November 11, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 18¼ in. x 26½ in.
Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 55
- MS376.29** **Untitled, [Main bulkhead, forward side]**
Date: November 11, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 19¾ in. x 26¾ in.
Scale: 1 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 56
- MS376.30** **Untitled, [Transverse and longitudinal sections of hull bracing, deck stanchions and coal bunker bulkheads], October 7, 1861**
Date: October 7, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 13 5/8 in. x 32¼ in.
Scale: ¾ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 59
- MS376.31** **Untitled, [Transverse and longitudinal sections of hull bracing, deck stanchions and coal bunker bulkheads], October 7, 1861**
Date: October 7, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 12½ in. x 32 5/8 in.
Scale: ¾ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 60
- MS376.12** **Truss frames**
Date: December 3, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 12¼ in. x 11¾ in.
Scale: 3/8 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 86
- MS376.13** **Truss frames**
Date: December 3, 1861
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 13 7/8 in. x 12¾ in.
Scale: 3/8 in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 87

MS376.24 **U.S. Iron Clad Steamer, Monitor, Transverse Section Through Turret**
Date: 1862
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 14¼ in. x 24¾ in.
Scale: ½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 45

MS376.25 **U.S. Iron Clad Steamer, Monitor, Transverse Section Through Turret**
Date: 1862
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 14¼ in. x 24½ in.
Scale: ½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 46

Turret

MS376.20 **Battery, Turret Floor**
Date: [October 1862]
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 12½ in. x 12 3/8 in.
Scale: ½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: 166

Non-USS *Monitor*

MS376.51 **CSS *Virginia* [Longitudinal section, plan view, midship section and gun carriage], undated**
Date: None listed
Medium: Black ink on linen
Size: 30 in. x 72½ in.
Scale: 1 in. = 5 ft.
Peterkin file number: None

MS376.21 **Untitled, [Plan of Continental Iron Works]**
Date: None listed
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 10 in. x 15 in.
Scale: No scale listed
Peterkin file number: None

MS376.22 **Untitled, [Plan of Continental Iron Works]**
Date: None listed
Medium: Blueprint
Size: 10 in. x 15 in.

Scale: No scale listed
Peterkin file number: None

MS376.50 **Plan of Deck Plates for the US Monitor [*Catskill*],** undated
Date: None listed
Medium: Black and colored ink on linen
Size: 28½ in. x 110 in.
Scale: ½ in. = 1 ft.
Peterkin file number: None

MATERIALS REMOVED

None

SOURCES CONSULTED

Canney, Donald L. *Lincoln's Navy*. London: Conway Maritime Press, 1998.

De Kay, James T. *Monitor*. New York: Walker and Company, 1997.

Peterkin, Ernest W. *Drawings of the USS Monitor*. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service; Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources, 1985.

SUBJECTS

Caatskill (Ironclad : 1862)
Continental Iron Works
Ericsson, John (1803-1889)
Monitor (Ironclad : 1862)
Naval architecture -- Designs and plans
Rowland, Thomas F.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia (Ironclad : 1862)