

**The Osler Library of the History of Medicine  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada**

**Osler Library Archive Collections**

**P153**

**JOHN HENRY WYE FONDS**

**COMPLETE INVENTORY LIST**

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**P153: JOHN HENRY WYE FONDS**

**TITLE:** John Henry Wye fonds.

**EXTENT:** 32 cm of textual records.

**Biographical Sketch:** John Henry Wye was a surgeon of Allan Line Steam ship Line

**Custodial History:** The diaries originally came from the estate of the descendants of Canadian painter, Robert Whale (there is no physical evidence in the diaries to connect John Henry Wye with Robert Whale) – purchased.

**Scope and Content:** The fonds contains four original manuscript diaries (1 per calendar year), from 1889 to 1991 (transatlantic) with original watercolor drawings by John Henry Wye, Allan Line ship's surgeon.

**Source of supplied title proper :** Title based on the documents in the fonds.

**Language:** English

**Finding Aids:** Inventory list available

**2 Boxes**

Box 720

**Folder 1**

- January 1, 1888-December 31, 1888. 104 leaves (208 p.), 4to (17.6 x 22.5cm), original half sheep and marbled boards, binding worn in spine and hinges starting, internally clean and fresh. Leaves 27 to 101 contain the daily diary of Wye's 5 transatlantic crossings between London and Montreal, as ship's doctor on board the Allan Line's steamer, "S. S. Pomeranian," with stops in Halifax, Quebec City and Montreal. The diary is illustrated with 50 original water color paintings and cities, of which 31 are identified as Canadian. These includes scenes on the St. Lawrence River, Varennes, St. Helen's Island, Father Point, Quebec City, Cape Race, Batiscan, Straits of Belle Isle, Deschambault, Sorel, Belle Island, Sydney, and Crawley Creek on Cape Breton Island.

**Folder 2**

- January 1, 1889-Dec. 1889. 86 leaves (171p.), 4to (20.1 x 25.2cm), original half sheep and marbled boards, fine condition. The first 12 leaves recount Wye's voyage on the "S. S. British Queen" of the Furness Line to Halifax and Boston. Leaves 33-40 recount a second voyage, on board the "S. S. Richmond Hill", to New York and back. It is illustrated with 5 full page watercolor

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paintings, including 2 lovely views of Halifax Harbor, 2 views of the Ship, and one of Knebworth House in Hertfordshire. The remaining small vignettes show the Cathedral Apostolic Church in New York, and, some sea scape vignettes of a water spout, Portuguese Man O' War, buoys, etc.

### Box 721

#### Folder 3

- January 1, 1890-December 31, 1890. 86 leaves (171 p.), 4to (20.1 x 25.2cm), original half sheep and marbled boards, fine condition. The bulk of this diary recounts Dr. Wye's life in London; however from July to September, he sailed on the maiden voyage of the "S.S. Queen Margaret" to the Holy Land, thence to the East Indies. It is decorated with 20 very small watercolor vignettes, most in the 5-10 cm. range, of coastal scenes along the way.

#### Folder 4

- January 1, 1891-December 31, 1891. 97 leaves (193p.), 4to (20.1 x 25.2 cm), original half sheep and marbled boards, fine condition. This diary recounts two additional voyages by Dr. Wye, another to the Far East and a second voyage to New York on the "S.S. Richmond Hill." It is illustrated with 27 small vignette water colors of the travels, most in the 5 to 10cm. range, and about a dozen uncolored or unfinished pencil sketches, including 5 of New York City on 2 Leaves at the end.

None of the diaries are signed, however, on the verso of leaf 64 of the 1889 diary, Wye talks of getting his business cards and copies out the text of one into the diary. It reads: "John H. Wye, M.D. C.M. Montreal. L.S.A. London. 12A Praed St. W. Advice Free. Dispensing Hours. Before 12 & After 6." In an additional entry on the verso of leaf 49 in the 1890 diary, Wye identifies himself as "John Henry Wye."