

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
At Sea, November 1st, 1838.

SIR,—

As some misapprehension may exist in relation to the use for which the reading-room, or forward cabin, is intended, I think it as well to briefly state my views respecting its uses, in which I have no doubt all will see the propriety of concurring.

I view it then in the same light as the ship's library, or a place where every one may usefully employ himself, free from the usual interruption of the ship's duty, and not subject to other practices, which would cause interruption in the use of books.

The accommodations, though not large, will with due respect and consideration for each other's views, be found to be ample, and will naturally prevent any one from appropriating exclusively its small conveniences to himself; or using its table for writing (intended for books and the facility of reference to them), as there no doubt exists sufficient room in the several apartments appropriated to the different officers for that purpose, without incommoding any one.

You will therefore keep its use confined to these purposes, and not permit the issue of slops, &c., to take place in it.

Respectfully,  
CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUT. THOMAS T. CRAVEN,  
U. S. Ship Vincennes.

#### ORDERS FOR THE VINCENNES.

THE following arrangements in regard to the scientific duties of the officers of this ship, will be adopted when in port.

Lieutenant Craven will aid the scientific corps as Assistant Naturalist, when his duties on board can be dispensed with.

Lieutenant Carr will be engaged with me in scientific duty at the observatory.

Lieutenant Johnson will perform the duty of first-lieutenant during the absence of Lieutenant Craven, and will be excused from night watch when so engaged. The officers will be divided into watches for duty on board ship, at the observatory, and elsewhere, as follows:

- 1st watch, Lieutenant Johnson and Passed Midshipman Totten.
- 2d watch, Lieutenant Alden and Passed Midshipman Reynolds.
- 3d watch, Lieutenant Maury and Passed Midshipman May.