

The U.S. Battleship Oregon (1893–1919)

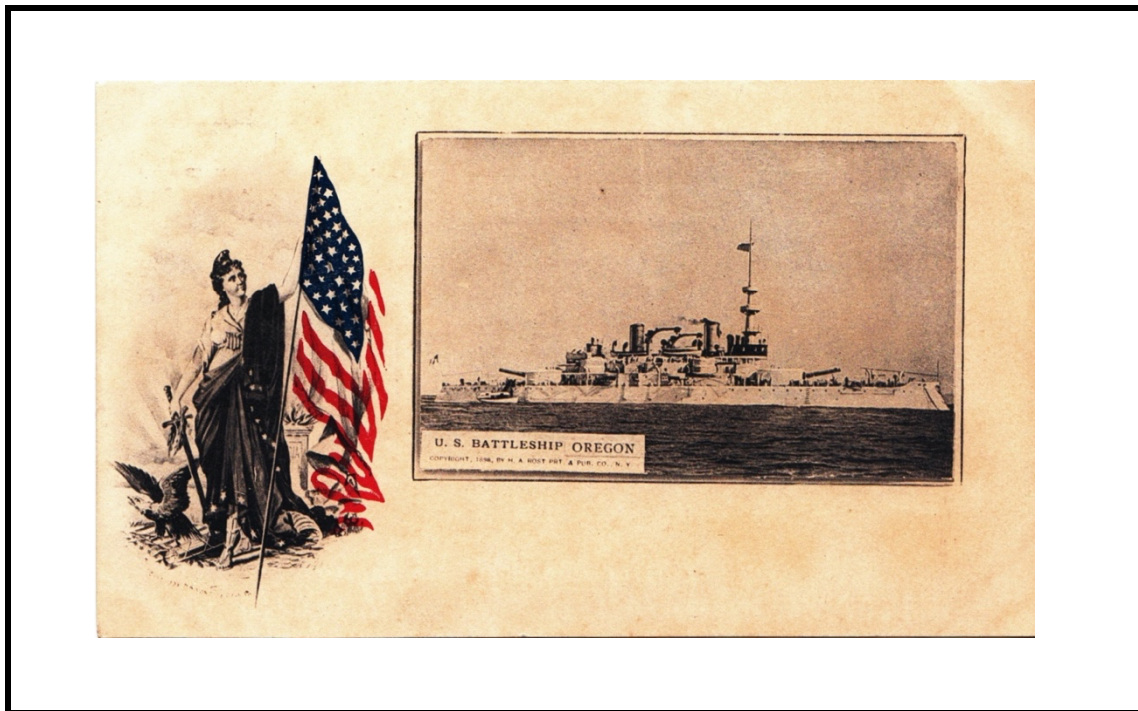
For most of her active career, the battleship OREGON was arguably the most famous ship of her time. Her key actions during the Spanish-American War became the stuff of legends.

In 1898, in the days before the Panama Canal, she steamed from Bremerton to San Francisco, and then “around the horn” of South America to assist naval operations in Cuba. During the Battle of Santiago Bay, OREGON chased down the Spanish flagship as she attempted to escape. She then deployed to the Asiatic Fleet for several years before being placed out of commission at Bremerton in 1906. She was affectionately called “*The Bulldog of the Navy*,” and when recommissioned in 1911, OREGON drew crowds in every port she visited—all hoping to see the celebrated ship.

Although OREGON continued to serve until 1919, as an older vessel now she was of limited value to the navy. She was often in reserve status with a skeleton crew, but her fame made her most useful for public events. Despite her long service, mail connected with OREGON is surprisingly scarce.

Purpose and Scope: This exhibit uses mail, postcards and other ephemera to illustrate the career of the battleship OREGON, from her launching in 1893 to her final decommissioning in 1919.

Presentation: The history of the ship is arranged chronologically by era, with items of special importance indicated by double line borders.



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