

Sailor's Hats from Wilkes Expedition (for study purposes only)
Peabody Essex Museum Collection



Sailor's Hat, about 1840
Straw, tarpaulin, canvas, leather
Gift of Everett M. Erskine, 1901
M995



Sailor's Hat, worn on the U.S.S. Vincennes, about 1840
Wool, leather, cotton, glass, pigment
Gift of Everett M. Erskine, 1901
M964

The donor's father, Charles Erskine, served on the U.S.S. *Vincennes* during the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842, the first voyage of discovery sponsored by the United States. During the expedition, the *Vincennes* circumnavigated the globe, exploring and mapping coasts as far away as Antarctica. The crew included artists and scientists who documented the voyage, collecting thousands of plant and animal specimens that now reside in the Smithsonian Institution. In 1890, Erskine published his account of the voyage, calling his book *Twenty Years Before the Mast*.