

Friends of the SFMML at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Vol. 1, No. 1

Newsletter

January, 2005

Something New!

We have been talking about it for years ... an occasional (meaning we don't want to be pinned down yet to a regular schedule) newsletter for the Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library. We hope it will keep you, the Friends, more in touch with what's going on at the Library and in the maritime literature world in general. We plan to include book reviews, event information, informative articles about the Library and the Friends, articles about our maritime history, and, in general, anything in which we think our Friends might have an interest.

Would you like to see something in the Newsletter? Tell us about it. Have you read a good maritime book lately, new or old? Write a review and send it in. Many of the Friends became Friends because they have serious maritime research interests. We'd like to hear about them. You can mail comments and contributions to:

Melani Van Petten
Friends of the SFMML
Building E, Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA 94123

Or e-mail Melani at Melani_Van_Petten@partner.nps.gov

A Chance to Win

Friends of the SFMML Newsletter... a boring name, right? We did it on purpose to give the readers a chance to come up with a name with some pizzazz. "Maritime Musings", "Nautical Natterings", "The Log"; we know you can do better than these. So get creative and send your ideas for a name for the Newsletter to Melani at the addresses given above.

If your name wins, you will get a free Friends membership for 2005 (or 2006 if you are already paid up

for this year). The deadline is March 15, which should give you plenty of time and yet be comfortably before we put out our next edition. The judges will probably be Dave Hull, Melani Van Petten, Doug Burrill and whoever happens to be in the Library on the day we decide we absolutely have to come up with a name in order to get out the next edition.

Coulter Kickoff Cocktail Party

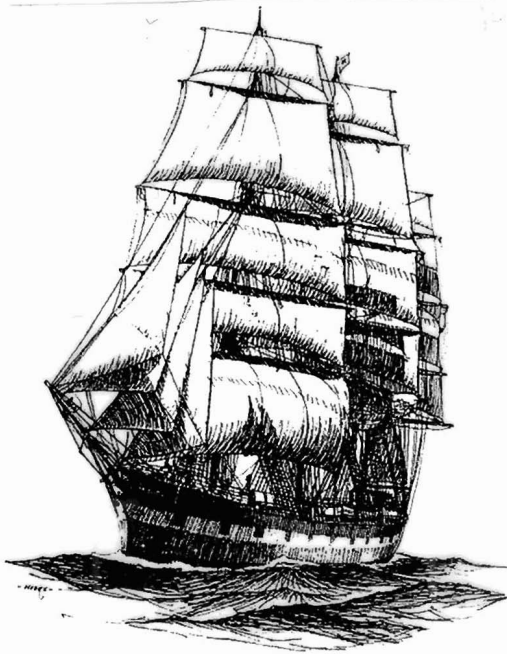
The Friends are assisting the Paul and Linda Kahn Foundation in mounting the first-ever retrospective of the paintings of William A. Coulter, famed West Coast marine artist. The exhibit will open in 2006 when the paintings have been assembled and the catalog prepared. At 6 p.m. on March 10, 2005, the Kahn Foundation is holding the Kickoff Reception in the lobby of the Merchant Exchange Building, 425 California Street in San Francisco. Gigantic Coulter murals surround the lobby, making it the perfect venue. All Friends are invited. RSVP to either:

Linda Kahn
2430 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 346-1643
lmkahn@mindspring.com

or:
Thomas M. Coulter
60 Rock Lane
Berkeley, CA 94708
(510) 524-0525
tcoulter2@comcast.net

There is a suggested donation of \$25 per person.

Greeting cards featuring some of the paintings of W.A. Coulter can be seen and purchased at maritimelibraryfriends.org.



Friends Helping the Library

by Heather Hernandez
Technical Services Librarian

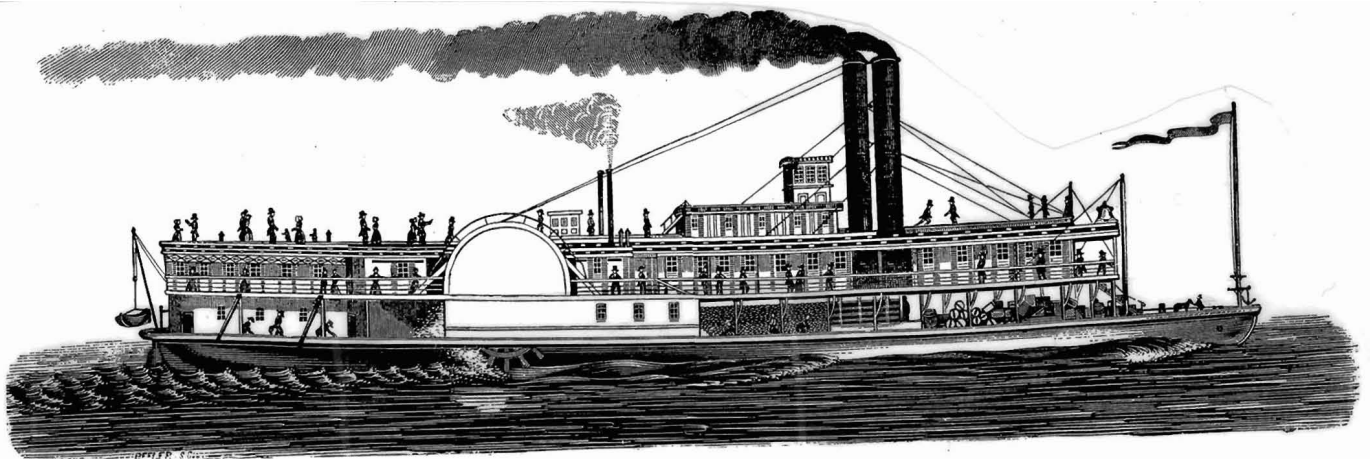
Many people may not be aware that the Friends have been helping the Library with a very important long-term project: barcoding the collection. The Friends provide volunteer time, fund workstudy student employees, and even buy barcode scanners. Most people, though, are unaware of this project, because it goes on in the back room, is very quiet, detailed work, and the results are often intangible. However, when it is finished, you will be able to search the Library catalog from anywhere in the world, and know if a book, video, or periodical issue is on our shelves—and where. This is accomplished by inventorying the collection: the barcoding staff brings items to the computer that runs library catalog software, also bringing the shelflist cards (duplicates of the catalog cards in the Reading Room), and matches the item, the card, and the electronic record. When everything matches, a barcode is placed on the item, and entered into the computer. The library catalog software keeps track of the items in the Library through the barcode number, and will be able to tell you if a book is in the Stacks, or, for example, is at the bindery. You can already see some of our efforts! We have sent some of the electronic catalog records to the National Park Service Combined Library Catalog on the internet at <http://www.library.nps.gov/>. Approximately 85% of the books, and some of our non-book materials, are already represented in this catalog. Right now the location is generic, simply "San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park." But when the barcoding project is complete, you will know if the book is in the Stacks, Rare Books, or Public Reference. Always wish you could go into the vault and browse the shelves? Just click on the call number in this online catalog, and you are virtually browsing our shelves. Interested in helping out? We can definitely use the help. The more the merrier! Call us at 415-561-7030.

Book Review: The Cape Horn Breed

by Ted Miles
History Department

One of my favorite series of maritime books has been the first person accounts of apprentices and sailors who served aboard ocean-going square-rigged ships of the 19th and 20th centuries. Over one hundred such accounts were written and they give the most detailed account of any industry active in the 1800s.

The Cape Horn Breed by William H.S. Jones (New York: Criterion Books 1958) is the story of the author's first years at sea in the *British Isles* (built in 1884 at Port Glasgow), a standard 2,461 gross ton Cape Horn of her time. After the ship is beat up and dismantled off Cape Horn in 1905, she makes it into Callao, Peru. She has replacement boats, sails and gear sent out from Liverpool and the Master, Mates and Apprentices re-rig and repair their vessel and complete the voyage. It is quite a tale! And it is on the shelf of the Library—come in and read it!



From the President

Lots of Ways to Help the Library

Most of you have already received one letter from me, the Annual Appeal which went out at year end 2004. As I said then, the normal succession occurred at the last board meeting, Dale Vinnedge retired as President and I was “graduated” from Vice President to President. Board Member Linda Kahn was elected to replace me as Vice President. I’m retired after working thirty years with Chevron (now ChevronTexaco), primarily in their shipping company. My particular interests are maps and charts, and WWII in the Pacific.

I plan to make the President’s Letter a regular part of the Newsletter, and I hope we can make the Newsletter a regular publication. Our success will depend, to some extent, on receiving regular submissions from members for publication.

In this first letter, I want to talk about ways you, as a Friend, can support the Library. And the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library needs your support, make no mistake about it. The difficult time nonprofits in general have been going through over the last few years of economic belt-tightening has had ample publicity. The National Park Service, the Park and Library’s parent organization has, at the same time, undergone even more severe budget cutting. For example, the Library’s New Acquisitions Budget, normally a modest enough \$6,000 annually, has been eliminated as a line item for the last two years. Any new acquisitions have been funded by the Friends. Finally, the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami has attracted a huge volume of desperately needed donations at the normal year-end charitable giving time. The fear is that much of this largesse will be diverted from other non-profits who are in dire need of maintenance funding to continue and expand operations.

So how can you help, and specifically, how can you help the Friends? Some ways are obvious. Your membership and donation checks are a mainstay of our funding. Continuing and increasing your donations must always be a prime consideration. If your employer will match your contributions, so much the better. Make sure you take advantage of the opportunity. Also, we are working to allow you to make membership renewals and donations by credit card on our web site.

But there are many other ways to support the Friends. Most are less “painful” and some are downright fun.

- Did you know that by linking through the Friends website to Amazon.com

you can ensure that a percentage of everything you spend there goes to us? It costs you no more and supports the Friends.

- If you have an old car you’d like to donate, check out the link V-DAC on our web site. We get the proceeds above selling costs.
- You’re probably a Friend because you have an interest in reading about things maritime. Feed that interest by buying books at our book sale web site with the Advanced Book Exchange. We price very competitively, and as a Friend, you get a 15% discount!
- When you’re through with your books, maritime or otherwise, give them to the Friends for addition to the Library’s collection or resale. We’ll pick up! Clear your shelves and help the Friends.
- Volunteer at the library. You’re a Friend because you have maritime interests. Cultivate those interests by volunteering your time at the Library. We have lots of different jobs that need doing; some even save us spending workstudy money. Something will fit your wants and timing needs. Give us a call.
- Consider tax-advantaged giving to the Friends. See the attached information.

So, one way or another, lend your support to the Library. We can use it!

Doug Burrill

From the Principal Librarian

Congratulations to the Library Friends!

For many long years the vision of a publication has waxed and waned among the Library Friends, and now this vision has its first issue!

It will improve communication with you, its member base, and—as indicated by the title naming contest—it will become what you want it to be.

The Library Friends, now in its 23rd year, has largely been responsible for the edge of excellence that sets this Library apart from other federal libraries.

In a variety of ways the Friends have advanced the Library,

- by publicizing the research resources of the Library and the Park in general,
- by funding a Work Study Program through their online book sales (maritimelibraryfriends.org),
- through their Reardon Collection Management Endowment by funding critical collection needs such as remote storage,
- through their Mawdsley Acquisition Endowment by funding library collection purchases beyond the core acquisition funding provided by the Park,
- by purchasing or being otherwise critically influential in the Library's acquisition of the three major collections (5,000-20,000 items each) to come into the Library since 1992, and
- by funding various projects in the Library, such as the present work in preservation of oral histories.

Furthermore, the Friends have advanced maritime history and education

- by their publication of eight monograph titles,
- by their support of the Klebingat Lecture Series since the early 1980s,
- through their Kortum Endowment by the presentation of a biennial prize of one thousand dollars for best research,
- through their Davis Family Education Fund by supporting a three-unit maritime history course, offered each fall in conjunction with the California Maritime Academy and St. Marys College of California.

I further salute the Library Friends for their vision in undertaking their current five-year plan, called the Quarter-Century Plan, in preparation for their silver anniversary. It is an ambitious vision—to raise a million dollars—but if successful, it would assure the future of the Library Friends and raise the capital in their five permanent funds to mature levels. It would securely position the Library Friends to continue to build that edge of excellence in this Library for the next twenty-five years.

It is a vision worthy of pursuit. In the meantime, chalk one up for the Friends—a vision realized: you are holding it...

Dave Hull

What's Happening

Upcoming Events

The Klebingat Lecture Series takes place on Saturday evenings at 6pm at the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center.

Fee is \$4, \$3 for Friends.

Reservations: 415-561-7040

January 22

Maverick Around the World

In March of 2001, local sailor and philosophy professor Tony Johnson and a friend set out from San Francisco Bay to sail around the world in the 39-foot sloop *Maverick*. Twenty-seven months later, they sailed back under the Golden Gate Bridge to complete their 30,000 mile circumnavigation. Join us for the story of the tropical isles, pirates, reefs, and hard weather they encountered on their voyage.

February 26

The Wreck of the Valencia

Storyteller Lynette Patton will present the tale of the 1906 wreck of the San Francisco passenger steamer *Valencia*, taking her audience back in time as the wife of *Valencia's* captain.

March 26

The Golden Hinde

Back by popular demand, after an unexpected cancellation, former crew members Steve Canright and Tim Przygocki will show slides and discuss their time aboard the replica of the famous ship in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe.

