

Los Angeles Maritime Museum

Manuscript Collection # 1

The William A. Bergstrom Engineering Collection of California Shipbuilding Corporation

Finding Aid compiled by Los Angeles Maritime Museum Research Library

Processed By, Date:

Kelsey Knox, May 1, 2015

Title: The William A. Bergstrom Engineering Collection of California Shipbuilding Corporation

Date(s): 1941-1946

Extent: 3.5 cu. ft. (3 record storage boxes, 1 document case)

Scope and Content Note: The William A. Bergstrom Engineering Collection of California Shipbuilding Corporation is a collection of materials that pertain to engineering and shipbuilding at California Shipbuilding Corporation during World War II. The collection is comprised of materials belonging to William Bergstrom and his father-in-law, Cyril Hubert, both of whom worked for the company during its operations from 1941-1946. The collection includes engineering manuals, blueprints, plans for ships at California Shipbuilding Corporation, and personnel training manuals written by Bergstrom. The collection also contains a number of publications of mostly California Shipbuilding Corporation's newsletter, *Calship Log*, several issues of other shipyards' publications and a small library of books on ship construction. Finally, the collection includes a number of photographs believed by Bergstrom's son Richard, to have been taken by William Bergstrom, who was an amateur photographer in addition to his job at the shipyard. These photographs are of the shipyard, personnel, and shipyard special events.

Format: Manuscript, photographs, negatives, publications.

Creator: William A. Bergstrom

Provenance: The William A. Bergstrom Engineering Collection of California Shipbuilding Corporation was donated by Richard Bergstrom, son of William Bergstrom.

Access: Prior arrangement with the Archivist or Curator for photographs, archival, or manuscript material. Prior arrangement with the Curator for artifacts in the collection.

Usage restrictions: Copyright restrictions apply to the collection. Please inquire in writing.

Catalog record:

William A. Bergstrom Engineering Collection of California Shipbuilding Corporation

Abstract: The William A. Bergstrom Engineering Collection of California Shipbuilding Corporation is a collection of archival materials compiled by William Artis Bergstrom and his maternal grandfather, Cyril Hubert, both of whom were employed by California Shipbuilding Corporation from approximately 1941-1945. The collection consists of three different types of

materials. There are a number of manuals, instruction sheets, and blueprints that pertain to shipbuilding and engineering. There are also approximately 450 black and white photographs of engineers, ship planning, and ship construction, taken at the shipyard. Finally, the publication of the corporation, *Calship Log*, California Shipbuilding Corporation newsletter dating September 1941 through September 1945, as well as other publications of the firm or other wartime shipyards.

Biographical history: William A. Bergstrom was hired and trained at California Shipbuilding Corporation by his father-in-law, Cyril Hubert. Like other company workers, he received most of his training on the job. Eventually, Bergstrom became Chief Loftsmen and coordinated all loft training. After the closing of the shipyard, Bergstrom and Hubert worked at MGM Studios building sets, which Hubert had done prior to the war and working at the shipyard. After working at the studios, Bergstrom founded the “Vent-a-Hood” company in Buena Park, California.

Arrangement and Description: The William A. Bergstrom Collection is divided into four series: Series One: Training Manuals and Engineering Materials, Series Two: Periodicals, Series Three: Photographs, and Series Four: Museum Artifacts.

See William A. Bergstrom Manual for MGM Studios as a separate collection.

Series I: Training Manuals and Engineering Materials

The manuscript materials in the William A. Bergstrom Collection are mostly training materials on different aspects of ship-building and engineering. This includes a book on how to read and understand blueprints, as well as a manual explaining ship terminology and marine abbreviations. There is also material on the policies and procedures of working at California Shipbuilding Corporation. Engineering materials in the collection include blueprints, sepia diazo drawings, and sketches details specific parts of the ship, as well as designs of the whole of the ship.

Series II: Periodicals

Series Two of the Bergstrom collection is comprised of publications, collected from California Shipbuilding Corporation as well as other maritime organizations. While the Bergstrom collection does not contain a complete run of *Calship Log*, there is a complete run in California Shipbuilding Corporation Collection (please ask the Archivist). *Calship Log* issues date from September 1941- September 1945 and include both bi-monthly and weekly issues. In addition, the series also includes several issues of other shipyard and maritime publications such as *The Marin-er*, the publication of Marinship in Northern California, and *Fore & Aft*, the publication of Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co.

Series III: Photographic Prints

This series is comprised of photographs that portray the engineering and construction of Liberty and Victory ships at California Shipbuilding Corporation. The collection includes 8 ½" x 11" photographs, as well as 4" x 6" photographs and some oversized 11" x 14" photographs. They include photographs of ship plans and model ships in various states of construction, as well as photographs of designing and construction of the vessels. Images show the layout of the ships in large warehouses, the machinery used to build ships and photographs of vessels being constructed in the shipyard. This collection does not include negatives.

Series IV: Museum Artifacts

Museum artifacts from the Bergstrom Collection include an angle bending tool used to create angle measurements, drafting tools, and a christening bottle from the launching of the SS Thadeus S.C. Lowe. Please make a written request of the Curator to view the items in FA.2012.3001 and FA.2013.3001.

Search Terms for the collection:

aerial views	lines drawings (ships	shipbuilding
blueprints	plans)	steam engines
cargo ships	marine engineering	triple-expansion steam
dry dock	marine steam engines	engines
drafting tools	model ships	Victory ships
launching ceremony	mold loft	
Liberty ships	propellers	

Contents, Box and Folder Lists:

Series I, Training Manuals and Engineering Materials

Box 1 Folders 1-25

Arranged alphabetically from accounting codes to ship line drawings.

1. Accounting Codes
2. American Bureau of Shipping Instructions to Surveyors
3. Blueprint Reading for Shipfitter's Workbook
4. Blueprint Ship Specifications
5. Blueprints
6. Calship Ways
7. Construction Instructional Articles
8. Development of Longitudinals in Isherwood Construction "Miscellaneous Problems"
9. Glossary of Shipbuilding Terms, A:
10. Grid Drawings
11. John C. Fremont Launching Report
12. Line drawings negatives

13. Modern Mold Loft Procedure
14. Mold Loft Manual
15. Pages from Engineering Manual
16. Personnel Training Blueprints
17. Procedure for Molding Baker Casting Resin
18. Propeller Line Drawings
19. Property of Swing Shift Wm. Bergstrom
20. Sepia Diazo Line Prints
21. Ship Construction Schedule
22. Ship Design Illustrations
23. Ship Detail drawings
24. Ship Detail Illustrations
25. Ship Line Drawings

Box 2 Folders 1-12

Arranged alphabetically from general ship fitting rules to Victory Ship Training Program:

1. General rules applying to ship fitting.
2. Papers, Letters
3. Ship Terminology
4. Shipbuilding Blueprint Reading
5. Specifications for the Construction of Sectional Timber Floating Dry Docks
6. Suggested Teaching Units-
7. Supervision of Welding in Ship Building
8. Swing Shift Personnel
9. Various Detailed Engineering Drawings
10. Various Instructions and Diagrams
11. Victory Ship Manual
12. Victory Ship Training Program

Series II, Publications and Periodicals

Box 3 Folders 1-20.

Arranged chronologically by date.

CalShip Log as a weekly tabloid from 6/23/1944 to 9/16/1944, an incomplete run.

Series II, Subseries 1 of 1: Subseries contains published manuals and monographs used in the construction of ships. These titles are available in the Library: please request Box LIB 12.12-01

The Building Estimator's Reference Book / Frank R. Walker, 1921

Construction Procedure Used by California Shipbuilding Corporation / 1942

Sheet-metal Work; a Manual of Practical Self-Instruction... / William Neubecker, 1920

Ship Erection / Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction, 1942

Shipfitting Practice / Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction, 1941

Structural Shapes, Information and Tables... / Bethlehem Steel Corp., 1934

Template Photography / Kaiser Company, Inc., 1942

Series III, Photographic Prints

Box 4, Folders 1-20

Arranged alphabetically by folder descriptive title. Each folder contains a varied quantity of images, according to how grouped by subject. Folder titles with quantity of images:

Completed Ships	(2)	Preliminary Construction in Warehouse	(34)
Construction Machinery	(23)	Ship Models	(92)
Construction of Ship Hull in Warehouse		Ship Plans and Drawings	(18)
(55)		Shipyard and Construction	(36)
Engineers and Ship Planning	(9)	Shipyard and Ship Construction	(98)
Engineers, planning	(6)	Special Events	(4)
Engineering tools	(24)		
Engineering tools and forms	(23)	Various 8 1/2"x11" Photographs	(22)
Key Personnel	(4)		
Oversized Photographs of Construction	(5)		

Series IV: Museum Artifacts

Artifacts include measuring and drafting tools. Please make a request of the museum Curator or Archivist to view these items.

End.