

Los Angeles Maritime Museum

Collection # 8

William Muller Collection

Compiled by Los Angeles Maritime Museum Research Library

Title: William Muller Collection
Dates: 1865 to 1971 (bulk 1865 to 1936)
Extent: 5 cu. ft.

Scope and Content Notes:

Naval architectural plans, photographic prints, financial statements, office correspondence and documents make up the William Muller Collection. Working on Mormon Island near the shipyard of Fellows and Stewart, Inc. in the early years of the twentieth century, William Muller Shipbuilding produced wooden steam- and later gas engine-propelled ships for William Banning's transportation companies and for other commissions. The naval architectural drawings in this collection are ink on linen, laminated to boards, blueprints, or appear in 4 x 5 photographic negatives, and are not a complete collection of all of his works. Names of the ferries his yard built include the ALMA, COMPANERO, HERMOSA II, and CABRILLO; his tugboats include DAVID RENTON, VIVO, LOUIE BLACK, and JOHN M. STEWART. Early journal articles, such as a description of the LOUIE BLACK on a trial run in the August 1927 issue of *Pacific Motor Boat* provide photographic illustration of the completed vessel and details about its diesel engine.

Photographs in the collection include COMPANERO, HERMOSA II, DAVID RENTON, VIVO, LOUIE BLACK, BLANCHE W, as well as unmarked vessels, views of hulls in construction, and views of San Pedro as a roadstead.

Format: Documents, manuscripts, photographs, news articles, postal cards, blueline prints and naval architectural drawings.

Creator : Family of the late William Muller.

Access: Prior arrangement with the Museum Director or Museum Archivist

Usage Restrictions: Copyright restrictions may apply.

Catalog Record: William Muller Collection

Processing information: Derek Kendall, 10/6/2005; Finding aid completed by Liz Ruth-Abramian, 8/27/2013

Abstract:

The collection contains correspondence, financial statements, estimates, notes, photographs, and naval architectural drawings of ships built by the firm of William Muller Shipbuilders, circa 1898 to 1936.

Biographical history:

William Muller, born William (Wilhelm) Adolph August Muller, in 1865 in Germany, came to the United States around 1885 and to California two years later. Early in the twentieth century his reputation as a builder of wooden ferries and tugboats in Wilmington and San Pedro earned him contracts with William Banning, his enterprises and his associates, to

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produce ships for the Catalina Island Line and Wilmington Transportation Company as well as carry out commissions for other parties. Among Muller's first productions, the ferries CABRILLO and HERMOSA II were launched in 1904. Muller died in 1936.

Administrative Note:

The collection is fragmentary but holds evidence of wooden shipbuilding from 1904 -1936.

Arrangement and Description:

The collection is organized in 3 series: Series One contains financial statements for towboats, yachts & lighters; journals and time books; specifications, documents, correspondence, and news clippings, dated 1916 to 1971 (bulk 1916 to circa 1930). Series Two contains photographs and postcards. Series Three contains naval architectural drawings, dated between 1919 and 1924. Series One and Two are in Boxes 1-3; oversized photographs in Series Two and naval architectural drawings in Series Three are stored flat in large folders. Proper names in CAPS, such as CABRILLO, refer to ship names only.

Series 1, Box # 1:

MULLER COLLECTION I - Folders 1 to 17

Folder 1: Muller Family History

Folder 2: Map of Los Angeles Harbor and Vicinity by the Board of
Los Angeles Harbor Commissioners dated July 1938 (2 copies).

Folder 3: Official Transportation & City Map of Los Angeles California
and Suburbs (tracing or transparency), dated 1910.

Folder 4: TUG BOATS

Specification for a towboat

Manufacturing agreement for the "VELERO II"

Correspondence from G. Allan Hancock, 8-18-21

Affidavit copy from Muller to IRS, 5-1-1925

Specification for 4-masted topmast barkentine

Correspondence, cost estimate to F.C Gibbons, 7-1-1919

Two newspaper clippings:-

San Pedro Pilot (?) 1959 Anniversary Edition

pp.31 & 32.

Los Angeles Times Pt.II dated 6-23-1975.

Folder 5: BLANCHE W

7 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Feb 1924 - Jul 1924

Folder 6 : YACHT PASQUALITO

11 financial statements: Francis P. Graves, Sept 1923 to May 1924

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Folder 7: TOWBOAT D.M RENTON

10 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Mar 1923 to Jan 1924

Folder 8: TUGBOATS JOHN N. STEWART and MILTON S. PATRICK

15 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Nov 1925 to Sep 1926 for MILTON S. PATRICK

15 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company, Nov
1925 to Sep 1926 for JOHN N. STEWART

Instruction to Western Machinery, 11-25-1925

Correspondence and Proposal from Union Tool Co., 11-30-1925

Folder 9: TUGBOAT DAVID P. FLEMING

12 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Mar 1922 to Oct 1923 (Some statements cover both
DAVID P. FLEMING & D.M.RENTON)

Instruction dated 1-20-1923 labor, materiel costs for "FLEMING"
and "RENTON".

Folder 10: TUGBOAT LOUIE BLACK

12 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Oct 1926 to May 1927

Instruction letter, 8-28-1926

Instruction letter to Western Engineering, 10-19-1926

Statement of repair for LOUIE BLACK

Folder 11: CAPTAIN WILLIAM

8 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Dec 1922 to Jun 1923

Folder 12: PRINCESS

16 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Aug 1923 to Jun 1924

Instruction letter, 8-17-1923; Statement from Union Gas Engine Co.,
8-28-1923

Folder 13 : W.T.Co Barge 15

8 financial statements: Wilmington Transportation Company,
Mar 1925 to Aug 1925

Instruction letter, 12-31-1924.

Folder 14: LIGHTERS

financial statements and invoices for lighters to Wilmington
Transportation Company

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Folder 14: Lighters (continued):

- a) Lighter 8, 9, Feb - May 1923
- b) Lighter 6, Jun - Aug 1923
- c) Lighter 10, 11, Jun - Oct 1923
- d) Lighter 12, 14, Nov 1924- Apr 1925
- e) Lighter 15, Mar - Jun 1927; letter of instruction from WTC, 2-19-1927.
- f) Lighter 16, Apr - Jul 1927
- g) Lighter 17, Jul - Sep 1927
- h) Lighter 18, Sep - Nov 1927
- i) Cost estimate by William.Muller, 2-17-1933.

Folder 15: BLANCHARD

Correspondence between Capt. P.B. Blanchard and William Muller, 3-15-1928.

Folder 16: VELERO II

45 financial statements to G. Allan Hancock, Oct 1921 to Feb 1923.

Folder 17: Correspondence:

Catalina Island Line to William.Muller, 4-3-1923.
Copy, to Wilmington Transportation Co. 5-17-1920
Copy of an article, "The Big White Steamer", from The Branding Iron, the Magazine of the Los Angeles Corral, issue #101, June 1971.
News clipping from 1942 on the VALERO II (sic).
Notes on PRINCESS and VIVO & LISTO

Series 1, Journals and Time Books. Box 2:

Folder 1: Notebook; labor and material costs, yard expenses for ships under construction or in repair, 1928 to 1929

Folder 2: Weekly time books: 12-7-1929 to 2-15-1930 and 1-7-1928 to 12-28-1929.

Folder 3 & 4: Time book for weeks ending 2-6-1915 to 4-15-1916 and 1-31-1914 to 1-23-1915 for VELERO II; weekly or monthly labor hours, job expenditures.

Folder 5: Monthly time book, April 1916 to July 1917.

Folder 6: Weekly time book for weeks ending 8-6-1921 to 12-23-1922. VELERO II.

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- Folder 7: Weekly time book for weeks ending 2-7-1920 to 4-3-1921.
- Folder 8: Account book, labor and materials, Dec 1909 to Jun 1914.
- Folder 9: Account book, labor and materials, 1920 to Feb 1921.
- Folder 10: Notebook: engineering details, materials and sketches.
- Folder 11: Published book: "Mechanical and Engineering Pocket Book" by
Chas. H Haswell, 1903. Leather bound pocket edition.

Series 1, Correspondence and Documents; Box # 3

- Folder 1: Correspondence from Abbot-Downing Truck & Body Co. to Captain
Banning dated 12-29-1920.
News clipping, Los Angeles Times, 1925
E-mail from Kathy Mathews to Bill Muller dated 1-23-2000.
- Folder 2: Loose papers "D 4": San Pedro statistical review, circa 1956
History of L.A "La Reina", 3 typewritten pages dated 2-11-1929
History of San Pedro, 3 typewritten pages undated (circa 1923)
San Pedro/Wilmington, 11 hand & typewritten pages (circa 1937)
Miscellaneous, 5 hand & typewritten pages, undated.
Master carpenters certificate for the VAQUERO, signed by
William Muller on a Dept. Commerce & Labor form, 6-04-1913
Spirit copy, badly deteriorated, almost illegible
- Folder 3: Correspondence 1902-1935
From WTC, 6-25-1902
To David P. Fleming, 2-04-1935
From John W. Dickie, 4-16-1903
To Dr. Perry V. Whitworth, 7-01-1927
To David P. Fleming, 7-25-1925
To O.H Fischer, 11-24-1926
From William Wrigley, 8-29-1922.
- Folder 4: Lease agreement (copy) between William Banning and WTC on
behalf of William Muller. Unsigned 10 year lease dated 5-01-1923.
- Folder 5: Priced list of materials used in the construction of the
"Steamer Hermosa" (13 pages), from 9-04-1901 to 7-23-1902.
- Folder 6: Correspondence to J.H Patrick of WTC, 5-17-1920, containing a valuation
of fabricated vessels and equipment.
Steamer HERMOSA:
Typewritten copy of a newspaper clipping dated 1902 entitled

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"Successful Launching of The New Hermosa".

Copy of transcripts from newspaper articles (paper unknown) on launching of the New Hermosa in 1902

Folder 7: Historical news clippings

Nautical Gazette dated 11-10-1904 (photostatic copy) CABRILLO.

L.A Daily News dated 3-05-1926 JOHN N. STEWART

Long Beach dated 3-07-1926 JOHN N. STEWART

California Pilot dated 2-25-1926 JOHN N. STEWART

Pasadena Star News dated 3-4-1926 JOHN N. STEWART

Undated copy of a newspaper clipping of COMPANYERO (sic).

Folder 8. CABRILLO; news clippings and articles:

News Pilot 7-20-1971 SS CATALINA

News Pilot 7-23-1971 CABRILLO

News Pilot 8-26-1971 CABRILLO (by William Olesen)

News Pilot 9-11-1997 CABRILLO

News Pilot 7-20-1971 CABRILLO

L.A Times 7-21-1971 CABRILLO

South Pacific Marine dated 3-17-1993 VIVO.

L.A Times dated 6-01-1990 BETTY O (in plastic).

"William Muller Shipbuilder" 3 pages honoring the CABRILLO at
Cabrillo Beach Maritime Museum (undated).

Folder 9: Newsletter

with anecdotal history of in Banning and Company Volume 1 No.2, 1995.

Folder 10: Original letter from Office of the Captain of the Yard, Mares Is. To

William Muller dated 8-19-1935.

Folder 11: Handwritten note on COMPANERO by Hugh Banning Jr (?), 7-20-1971.

Handwritten note from Thomas G. Skahill to William Muller, 3-29-1995

enclosing an article from Pacific Motor Boat, August 1927, p31

describing the LOUIE BLACK.

Extract from "Merchant Vessels of the U.S" documenting #206390

ALMA and its subsequent fate (3 pages).

Typewritten note by Robert Schemer dated 1-24-1996 with

reference to YAQUINA BAY (#125901).

Folder 12: Correspondence, formerly in frames:

Santa Catalina Island Co., 9-14-1904

Marine Hardware Co., from Ray Mitchell, 8-11-1921

Santa Catalina Island Co., from J.H Patrick, 10-15-1921

Catalina Island Line, from David P.Fleming, 1-14-1924

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Folder 13: Correspondence: Orders

W.P Fuller, 2-14-1930; Wilmington Sheet Metal Works, 2-28-1930.

Catalina Island Line, 9-2-1925.

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, 1-10-1930

E.K Wood Lumber, 1-23-1930.

White Brothers, 5-12-1927. Handwritten.

Johnson, Joseph and G.M Josselyn and Co., 8-10-1921.

Ets-Hokin and Galvan, 2-6-1930.

C.J Hendry, 8-9-1921; C.J Hendry, 1-18-1930.

Folder 14: Correspondence

Unknown to Captain William Banning, 4-30-1920, referencing the stability of the AVALON.

William Muller to LeVerne Beales, Bureau of the Census, 3-17-1928.

Folder 15. "# 268" Specifications for "The Construction of a Wooden Steam Yacht" for Capt. William Banning by Henry J. Gielow.

Part I Hull

Part II Joiner work

Part IV Upholstery, furnishings, outfit.

Folder 16. Booklet "Captain Portola in San Luis Obispo County" 1769-1969 by Professor H.E Bolton and Paul Squibb.

Folder 17: Sheet Music. "The Navy Took Them Over and The Navy Will Bring Them Back". Music by Ira Schuster, words by Howard Johnson, 1918.

Folder 18: Correspondence, 10-4-1933, the National Association of Boat Builders and Repairers: proposed code of fair competition and trade practice.

Series 2, Photographs and Postcards: Box # 3

Folder 1: 3 ½" x 2 ½" black and white photographic prints; studio envelope

Avalon, Catalina Island, California

Folder 2: Postcards and photographic prints

7- postcards (2 of St. Helens, Oregon and 4 of San Pedro harbor)

1- panoramic photographic print postcard 3 ½" x 11": ships underway (the Great White Fleet), labeled "Evans Fleet"

1- 8 x 10 black and white photographic (early silver gelatin) print: San Pedro Harbor Company 1888

Folder 3: Mounted black and white photographic print (flat platinum print?)

Yacht CRICKETT, mount severely chipped

Folder 4: Contact prints from 4 x 5 negatives; 4 x 5 negatives:

Tugboat LOUIE BLACK; 7 views

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Folder 5: Photographic prints, 8 x 10

Set of 7 views of stagecoaches and wagons

Folder 6: Photographs and postcards (a-h): photographs include copy prints; others

- a) 5 3/4" x 3 1/2" snapshot William Muller near hull of towboat
- b) 5 3/4" x 3 1/2" snapshot BLANCHE W; 8 x 10 BLANCHE W in harbor
- c) 5 3/4" x 3 1/2" snapshots (2) WILLIAM MULLER
- d) 5 3/4" x 3 1/2" snapshots, copy prints Muller, unknown and Banning
- e) 4 x 6" color snapshots COMPANERO art-work, labeled
R.H Smith, 1994.
- f) Photograph of unknown ship at unknown location.
- g) 6 x 8 sepia-toned photographic print William Muller shop interior
- h) 3 1/4" x 5 1/2" snapshot, Girl and christening

1-8x10 photographic print, sepia-toned of William Muller shop interior

3-4x5 negatives (construction plans for tugboat)

1-4x5 positive print (construction plans for tugboat)

1-4x5 negative sailing yacht

Folder 7: Photographic prints and snapshots (i-n)

- i) San Pedro view between 1st and 10th streets.
- j) 7 3/4" x 4 3/4" San Pedro harbor scenes (3), 1885.
- k) Original 2 3/4" x 4 1/2" and larger copy of Muller aboard a yacht.
- l) 7 3/4" x 4 3/4" San Pedro Railroad Work Train, San Pedro, 1885.
- m) HERMOSA II at Avalon, Catalina Island
- n) 7 3/8" x 9 1/2" sepia-toned print SAMOA under construction in San Francisco

10 3/4" x 8" black and white lithographic print: "San Pedro – 1878"

3x5 copy prints harbor scenes, postcards

Folder 8: Photographic prints and snapshots, postcards (o-t); handwritten notes for a-t.

- o) Hotel Metropole in Avalon (postcard).
- p) Avalon Bay in Avalon (postcard).
- q) Photo of Banning (left) and Muller (right). (see Folder # 6)
- r) 2- 7 1/2" x 10" (?-broken paper)sepia-toned prints: SAMOA.
- s) COMPANERO (postcard)
- t) 4x6 color prints PRINCESS, both copyright R.H Smith 1994. (missing)

Contact sheets of 4x5 negatives showing paddle-wheel steamer profile, and construction plans for a tugboat, barge, and tenders

7 x 11 black and white photographic prints (2) of tugboat DAVID RENTON

Folder 9: Photographic prints, card

Christmas card from Captain Blanchard

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Photograph of American Passenger Ship 1845 "Liverpool Packet"

Photograph of "Tillamook" on Bandon Bar

Folder 10: 4x6 color prints

Tugboat SHELTER ISLAND (location & date unknown).

Folder 11: Mounted photographic print, vessel name unknown

Folder 12: Map of Long beach and Southern California from Farmers and Merchants Bank

4 pen and ink postcards by Barbara MacDonald dated 1964.

Automobile road-map of Long Beach circa 1930.

Series 2: Oversized Photographic Prints

Drawer FF1 – 2, foldered

Folder # Title / Size / Black and White or Sepia-toned Prints

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Wreck of 7 U.S. Destroyers Hondo Pt. Sept. 1923 / 10" x 7" / black & white photographic print |
| 2 | yard, sign on building William Muller Shipbuilder, 1924 / 48" x 10" / black and white, toned, mounted, photographic print |
| 3 | yard, sign on building William Muller Shipbuilder, 1908 / 14" x 11" / black and white photographic print, mounted on 20" x 16" board |
| 4 | William Muller yard with hulls in construction; Fellows & Stewart sign in Background, no date / 20" x 8" / black and white photographic print |
| 5 | "Gigantic Iceberg..." from The Illustrated London News, 09/11/1875 / 16" x 11" black and white etching |
| 6 | view of yard, William Muller Shipbuilder, no date./ 20" x 11" / copy of black and white older photographic print |
| 7 | Harbor with docks circa 1900(?) / 20" x 16" / black and white copy of older photographic print |
| 8 | hull in scaffolding; on scaffolding four men in suits, backs turned, people below / no date / 7" x 9" / sepia-toned photographic print |
| 9 | views of downtown Avalon, Catalina / no date / 14" x 11" / sepia-toned photographic prints, (2) views |
| 10 | two-masted sailboat underway, stern view w/flag "Santa Rosa Island" 12" x 12" sepia-toned photographic print |
| 11 | view of docks, large schooner from stern "A.J. West: San Francisco" / 24" x 17" sepia-toned photographic print |
| 12 | view of the VAQUERO by a dock, landscape in background; stamped on Verso, "Phelps San Pedro" (framer or photographic lab?) stored in Archives Oversized Photographic Print Box |

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Series 3: Naval architectural drawings

Drawer FF1 – 2, foldered

| Folder | Title / vessel length / material / drawing scale / date |
|---------------|--|
| 1 | Lines of Twin Screw Passenger towboat / 65'-0" / ink on linen, mounted on board / 1/2"=1'-0" / Sept 9, 1919 |
| 2 | Plans of Refrigerating Motor fishing Boat / 140'-0" / ink on linen, mounted on board / 1/4"=1'-0" / Oct 29, 1919 |
| 3 | Four plans by H.J. Gielow, Engineer & Naval Architect, NY: No 268 Plan of Steam Yacht for Capt. William Banning / blueprint print / no scale / Jan 15, 1906; No. 235 Plan of Steam Yacht for Capt. William Banning Profile, Deck Layouts / blueprint print / 1/2"=1'-0" / Oct 22, 1906 No. 268 Plan of Steam Yacht for Capt. William Banning Shearing Plan / blueprint print / 1/2"=1'-0" / Oct 22, 1906 No. 268 Plan of Steam Yacht for Capt. William Banning Main Deck Layout / blueprint print / 1/2"=1'-0" / Oct 22, 1906 No. 268 Plan of Steam Yacht for Capt. William Banning Lower Deck Layout / blueprint print / 1/2"=1'-0" / Oct 22, 1906 |
| 4 | Plans showing adjustable ramp on Terminal of Wilmington Transportation Company: Section, elevation / ink on linen / 1/2"=1'-0" |
| 5 | Captain William towboat / profile / no scale / ink on linen, mounted on board (stored in FF2 Drawer 10) |
| 6 | Captain William towboat / deck plan / no scale / ink on linen, mounted (stored in FF2 Drawer 10) |
| 7 | Plans of Excursion Launch for Wilmington Transportation / 65'-0" / ink on linen, mounted on board / 1/2"=1'-0" / Jan 19, 1924 |
| 7 | Various plans and prints: paper pattern for SS WARRIOR / no date or scale / paper, ink, graphite profile of passenger ship with 9 lifeboats / blueprint print Fishing Cruiser for Mr. William Wrigley, Jr. (profile) / blueprint print / 1/2"=1'-0" / n.d. Plans showing general arrangement of Seagoing Launch / 50'-0" / 1/2"=1'-0" / n.d. Elevation of 80 HP 3 Cyliner Engines Side Wheel Vessel "Princess" / blueprint print / 1"=1'-0" / Dec 18, 1923 Paddle wheel for "Princess" # 80-3 engines, Job # 750 Orders E-3901 & E-3902 / blueprint print / 1 1/2"=1'-0" / Nov 17, 1923 |
| 9 | Paper patterns for plans of LOUIE BLACK, EMPEROR, JOHN M. STEWART, no scale, no dates. |
| 10 | Captain William towboat / profile / no scale / ink on linen, mounted on board (stored in FF2 Drawer 10) |