Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 36
Sturgis Haskins Collection
1919 – 2011

29 volumes and 3 boxes
9 linear feet
Accession No. LB2013.8

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Sturgis Haskins Collection

Haskins, Sturgis, 1940-2012
Collection, 1919 - 2011
9 linear feet
Sailor, writer, photographer, and gay rights activist from Sorrento, Maine.
Research notes, photographs, correspondence and ephemera compiled by Sturgis Haskins of Sorrento, Maine. The bulk of the collection consists of Haskins's encyclopedic research into the one design boats raced around Frenchman's Bay and Mount Desert Island in the late twentieth century. The remainder includes photographs and harbor records for the town of Sorrento and correspondence, photographs, and ephemera related to yacht clubs, sailboat racing, and architecture around the northern part of Penobscot Bay.
In English.
Heidi H. Hooper; Gift; 2012; LB2013.8
Finding aid available; volume level control

Subject Headings:
Haskins, Sturgis, 1940-2012
Sorrento (Me.)
Mount Desert Island (Me.)
Alden, John Gale, 1884-1962.
Herreshoff Manufacturing Company
Luders Marine Construction Co.
Fishing boats
Sailboat racing
Sailboats
Yacht racing
Yachts
Photograph albums

Acquisition:
This collection was donated to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Sturgis Haskin's sister, Heidi H. Hooper, shortly after Haskins's death.

Restrictions
This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions, except where materials may retain their original copyright.

Condition:
This collection is largely in good condition. Leaves that are not encased in page protectors are often worn or torn around the binder rings, and some documents have been folded to fit into page protectors.

Processing Note:
This collection is organized as Sturgis Haskins left it, with no modification since.
Related Materials:

PMM 28, the Sorrento Yacht Club Records, is another group of material donated by Sturgis Haskins, representing his long-standing involvement with the Sorrento Yacht Club. Haskins also donated a collection of burgees, most flown on his own boats, with LB2013.8.

Maine Maritime Museum holds more of Haskins’s photographs and correspondence about one design boats in collections MS-101 and PC-75. Coll. 2682 at the Maine Historical Society contains photographs, historical documents and ephemera, and correspondence from Sturgis Haskins. It is broader in scope, covering Haskins’s ongoing interests in the history of Sorrento and Sullivan, Maine, architecture and local estates, and his gay rights activism. Another group of Haskins’s papers is at the University of Southern Maine as LG MS 07, Sturgis Haskins Papers.

Historical Note:

Sturgis “Sturge” Haskins (1940-2012) was an avid sailor, photographer, writer, and organizer from Sorrento, Maine. He was the son of Reginald and Helen Haskins, both of Sorrento, and grew up in the town. He attended the University of Maine at Machias and Orono, the New School for Social Research in New York, and spent a year at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He lived in New York in the 1960s and Boston in the 1970s, spending summers sailing in Sorrento before moving back to the town full-time.

Haskins’s obituary describes him as a “well liked good citizen, who got things done.” He was deeply involved with projects related to his many interests. As a historian, he helped found the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society and served on the board of the Great Harbor Marine Museum. He was on the planning boards for the Town of Sorrento and for Hancock County, and served on the Sorrento Harbor Board as well. He was an outspoken advocate for gay rights and the gay community, founding the Wilde-Stein Club at the University of Maine and the Chiltern Mountain Club out of Boston. An outdoorsman, he was active in the Maine Sierra Club and the Maine Audubon Society. Finally, as a sailor, he was both a junior and senior Maine sailing champion, a sailing instructor, an active member of the Sorrento Yacht Club, and an organizer for many one-design races in the Sorrento and Mount Desert Island area.

Haskins was also a writer, publishing articles in magazines like “Wooden Boat” and “DownEast magazine,” a prolific photographer, and a careful researcher. Much of his research was directed towards the history of one-design racing classes and local yacht clubs. He was also interested in music and architecture.

Scope and Content:

The bulk of this collection consists of Sturgis Haskins’s research notes and photographs of boats and classes of boats raced in Sorrento, Frenchman’s Bay, and Mount Desert Island. It also contains some correspondence and manuscript material related to sailing and yacht racing and topical ephemera collected by Haskins. The collection provides a detailed record of the development of small, one design racing sailboats, and a somewhat episodic record of yachting and sailing around Sorrento and Mount Desert Island in the twentieth century.

Haskins’s research is precise and encyclopedic, neatly listing dates or hull numbers, owners, designers, and builders for multiple classes of racing sailboats. Haskins usually focused this research either on boat builders, like the Herreshoff Manufacturing Co., George Lawley & Sons, or the Mount Desert Yacht Yard; or by one design class, like the Winter Harbor Knockabouts or Northeast Harbor A-Class. Though the starting point for this research was often classes of boats being raced in Frenchman’s Bay, Haskins usually included all boats built in the class or by the firm, making this a valuable resource for the development of one design sailboat racing. For some sailboat classes, usually those closely tied to Sorrento or Mount Desert Island, Haskins included photographs of each member of the class.
Other material in this collection is usually incidental to Haskins’s research process, and therefore somewhat fragmentary. Haskins’s research into Luders L-16s, for instance, accompanied his effort to revive L-16 racing on Mount Desert Island, and his correspondence on the subject illustrates some of the social world of one design racing. Several other classes are represented in a similar manner.

A portion of this collection is dedicated to Haskins’s hometown of Sorrento, Maine. Haskins served on the town harbor committee in the 1980s, and his records of that, including lists of every boat moored in the harbor, are here. There are also photographs of many Sorrento boats and people, ephemera from the Village Improvement Association, and a few records from the Sorrento Yacht Club.

Ephemera in this collection likewise reflects Haskins’s collecting interests, and includes advertisements and brochures about various one-design boats, programs and other items from yacht clubs around Frenchman’s Bay, and souvenir pamphlets from vacation spots on Mount Desert Island and around Penobscot Bay. The last is supplemented by extensive photographs that Haskins took on home and garden tours of summer cottages on the Maine Coast.

**Box and Folder List:**

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**Sailing and Yacht Racing**

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**Yacht catalogs and advertisements**

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<td>Boats Today: 175 Boat Designs v. III (1960)</td>
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<td>Periodicals, miscellaneous: NCESA Reporter, 13 no. 2 (Winter 1977); USYRU News, 3 no. 1 (1978); The Dolphin Book Club News, April &amp; May, 1978; International Marine Books, May 1982; Sea, 70 no. 4 (April 1978); Maine Boats Homes and Harbors, 95 (July 2007)</td>
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<td>The Rudder, xv no. vii (July 1904)</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
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### Oversize

| 1    | Maine Coastal Resource Inventory Maps, c. 1973 |
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| 4    | Plans: Body plans, Q.A. Seventeens, 1954; sail plan; unidentified; sail and body plan, “Brutal Beast” dinghy (rolled) |
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### Bound Notebooks:

#### Volume 1
- Alden-designed yachts, listed by:
  - Name, with owners
  - Design numbers, with builders, year built, and owners
  - Racing classes
  - Builders
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- Bunker & Ellis/Ellis Boat Company, Manset, Maine
  - Specifications for Ellis Boat Company Cruisers
  - List of boats built by Bunker & Ellis

- Herreshoff S Class
  - Lists of owners
  - 50th anniversary racing season, 1969; 60th anniversary, 1979
  - Clippings, articles, and sale notices

- Photographs taken at the Castine Classic Yacht Race, 2011
  - Herreshoff
  - Luders
  - Other designers, miscellaneous
  - Rule Classes
  - Model boats
  - Schooners
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- Herreshoff-built vessels, Herreshoff Manufacturing Co.
  - Chronological listing
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- Lawley-built vessels, George Lawley & Son or F.D. Lawley, Inc.
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7 Lawley-built vessels
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9 Luders L-16 Class
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17 Photographs, vessels in Sorrento Harbor, c. 1890 – c. 1990
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   Mooring and rowboat applications for Sorrento Harbor, 1987-1989 (loose)

18 “Boats of the Sorrento Area, Including Frenchman’s Bay Racing Classes,” 1984
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   “Sorrento Boats: The 1950s Remembered,” draft manuscript
   Sorrento Yacht Club

21 Winter Harbor Yacht Club
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22 Scrapbook:
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   *Waterline*, a newsletter about Boothbay Harbor One Design sloops, v. 1
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   Sturgis Haskins, correspondence about racing sailboats, 1983 (indexed)

23 Manuscripts by Sturgis Haskins:
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   “The Winter Harbor 21 Foot Knockabout Class”
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