Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 42
Richard Lunt Lobsterboat Collection
1970 – 1989

5 boxes
3 linear feet
Accession No. LB2017.2

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Richard Lunt Lobsterboat Collection

Lunt, C. Richard K., 1940-
Collection, 1970-1989
5 boxes (3 linear feet)
Folklorist and professor; scholar of maritime folklore and Maine lobster boats
Manuscripts, oral histories, boat plans, and research material from C. Richard K. Lunt's study of Maine fishing boats in the 1970s and 1980s. The bulk of the collection consists of source materials and manuscripts for his dissertation, *Lobsterboat Building on the Eastern Coast of Maine: A Comparative Study*. These include tapes and transcripts of Lunt's interviews with Maine lobster boat builders in the Jonesport and Mount Desert Island areas and plans of lobster boats from the region.
In English
Organized in three series: Series I. Manuscripts; Series II. Oral Histories; Series III.

Plans
C. Richard K. Lunt; Gift; 2017; LB2017.2
Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:
Lunt, C. Richard K., 1940-
Boatbuilding
Boatbuilders
Fishers
Fishing boats
Fishing boats—design and construction
Lobster fisheries
Lobster industry
Maine

Local Subject Headings:
Lobster boats

Acquisition:
This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Richard Lunt.

Restrictions
This collection is open for research. It must be cited as the Richard Lunt Lobsterboat Collection.

Condition:
This collection is in good condition.

Related Materials:
Digitized copies of Lunt’s interviews with lobsterboat builders are available from the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History, University of Maine, as MF082, the C. Richard K. Lunt Collection. [https://archives.library.umaine.edu/repositories/5/resources/3009](https://archives.library.umaine.edu/repositories/5/resources/3009)
Historical Note:

C. Richard K. Lunt was a scholar of folklore who studied Maine lobsterboats and New England’s maritime culture. He was born in 1940 and graduated from Mount Desert Island High School before attending college at Northeastern University and the University of Maine. He earned a master’s in English from the University of Maine, and then, after a stint in the Peace Corps, received his PhD in American Folklore from the University of Indiana in 1976.

Lunt wrote his doctoral dissertation on lobsterboat design and construction in coastal Maine. He approached the subject as a folklorist and anthropologist, relying on interviews and discussions with Maine lobsterboat builders. He also spent a year at the Smithsonian working with Howard Chapelle, and that background in recording and interpreting boat design was an essential part of Lunt's work.

After earning his PhD, Lunt taught at the State University of New York in Potsdam. During sabbaticals, he served as a consultant to the Apprenticeshop at Maine Maritime Museum and as the research director for the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History at the University of Maine.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains material from C. Richard K. Lunt's research into Maine lobster boats and other maritime traditions. There are two types of material: primary resources, including oral interviews, boat plans, and photographs that Lunt collected as part of his research; and secondary material, consisting of Lunt's thesis, later articles, and correspondence with other scholars of maritime folklife. The collection is organized into series by media: Series I contains manuscripts and written material, Series II has oral history recordings, and Series III contains plans.

The bulk of the primary material consists tapes and transcripts of Lunt's interviews with fifteen lobsterboat builders and lobstermen who were active in the Mount Desert Island and Jonesport areas in 1970. Lunt’s interviewees included several well-known boatbuilders, like Ralph Stanley, Robert Rich, Alvin Beal, Bert Frost, Richard Alley, and Harold Gower. The interviews are lengthy and detailed, focusing on boat design and use in coastal communities. These are supplemented by line drawings and plans of lobster boats which Lunt took from boats under construction, historical builder's half models owned by the men he interviewed, and, occasionally, other museum collections.

Manuscripts for Lunt’s thesis and later papers provide the bulk of the secondary material. This is supplemented by correspondence, guides for historic documentation, conference programs, materials from the Apprenticeshop, and related ephemera from Lunt’s activities as a scholar of maritime traditions. There is also a complete copy of David A. Taylor’s 1989 dissertation, titled “A survey of traditional systems of boat design used in the vicinity of Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, and Hardangerfjord, Norway.”

Box and Folder List:

Series I. Manuscripts

Obj. ID Box Folder Dissertation:

Dissertation drafts:
42-47 1 2 Acknowledgements & List of Illustrations
42-42 3 Chapter 1: History
Chapter 2: Design

Chapter 3: Construction

Conclusions

Illustrations

Glossary

Proposal and correspondence

Dissertation sources: oral histories (original recordings are in box 5)

Transcripts, vol. A: interviews with
Ronald Rich, January 1970
Malcolm McDuffy, January 1970
Len Pierce, January 1970
Clarence Harding, January 1970

Transcripts, vol. B: interviews with
Oscar Smith, March 1970
Ralph Stanley, January 1970
James Beal, March 1970
Erwin Alley, March 1970
Alvin Beal, March 1970

Transcripts, vol. C: interviews with
Harold Gower, March 1970
Bert Frost, March 1970
Richard Alley, April 1970
Harry Beal, March 1970
Clinton Beal, April 1970

Dissertation sources: plans (see Series III)

Bibliographies

Papers and articles:


“Crafting the Model,” annotated drafts

“Crafting the Model,” illustrations

“Crafting the Model,” publication correspondence

“They Still Tailor Maine Lobsterboats.” Published in the program for the Smithsonian Institution’s 1970 Festival of American Folklife

Career and later research:

National Trust for Historic Preservation, Maritime History Task Force, draft guidelines for documenting maritime heritage, 1983

“Maritime Preservation – A Guide to Documentation,” drafts

Apprenticeship, notes and publications, 1979

Notes on Hampton boats, made as a visiting scholar at the Apprenticeshop, 1979
| 42-50 | 4 | Articles on Hampton boats, photocopies |
| 42-52 | 2 | Howard Chapelle, lines for fishing boats, photocopies |

| 42-57 | 3 | General correspondence, 1976-1986 |
| 42-54 | 4 | Correspondence, planning a maritime ethnology conference, 1978 |
| 42-53 | 5 | Correspondence and programs, 11th Maritime History Symposium, Maine Maritime Museum, 1983 |

| 42-31 | 7 | Pages 137 – 316 |
| 42-32 | 8 | Pages 317 – 450 |

**Series II. Oral History Recordings**

19 reel to reel tapes with interviews of Maine lobsterboat builders, conducted by C. Richard K. Lunt, 1970. (Transcripts are in box 2. Interviews marked * have not been transcribed.):

| 42-58 | 5 | Interview with Ronald Rich, January 8 1970 |
| 2 | Ronald Rich, January 9 1970 |
| 3 | Ronald Rich, January 10 1970 |
| 4 | Malcolm McDuffy, January 10 or 15 1970 |
| 5 | Ronald Rich, January 16 1970 |
| 6 | Ronald Rich, January 16 1970 |
| 7 | Len Pierce, January 19 1970 |
| 8 | Clarence Harding, January 21 1970 |
| 9 | Oscar Smith, March 21 1970 |
| 10 | Ralph Stanley, January 20 1970 |
| 11 | Robert Smallidge, January 2 1969* |
| 12 | James Beal, March 18 1970 |
| 13 | Erwin Alley, March 23 1970 |
| 14 | Alvin Beal, March 25 1970 |
| 15 | Harold Gower, March 27 1970 |
| 16, 17 | Bert Frost, March 20 1970 |
| 18 | Richard Alley, April 1 1970 |
| 19 | Harry Beal, March 31 1970 |
| 20 | Robert Smallidge, January 2 1969* |
| 21 | Clinton Beal, April 4 1970 |
| 22 | John Gardner, March 11 1970* |
| 23 | Harold Gower, March 26 and 27 1970* |
| 24 | Raymond Bunker, August 16 1974* |

5 Index to interviews by topic

**Series III. Plans**

| 42-4 | Richard Alley, lobster boat, first model |
| 42-17 | Richard Alley, Beals Island lobster boat, built 1970 |
42-16 Alvin Beal, Beals Island lobster boat, 1935-1940
42-1 Clinton Beal, lobster boat, built 1970
42-18 Ralph Ellis and Raymond Bunker, Mt. Desert Island lobster boat, 1970
42-5 Will Frost, offshore lobster boat or rumrunner
42-6 Will Frost, Redwing lobster boat, 1924
42-7 Redwing lobster boat, taken from half model at Mystic Seaport
42-15 Will Frost, Jonesport lobster boat, 1930
42-27 Will Frost, Jonesport-Beals Island torpedo-stern lobster boat
    Built by for Malcolm Lowell, 1930. Plan by Royall Lowell & Sons
42-12 Frank Johnson, Hampton boat EGRETta, Bailey’s Island, Maine,
    Half model in the Smithsonian collections, TR.311150
42-21 Robert Rich lobster boat, model #1, c. 1940
42-22 Model #2, built 1969
42-23 Model #3, built 1969
42-24 Ronald Rich, 26’ lobster boat. 1969
42-25 36’ lobster boat, 1969
42-2 Oscar Smith, lobster boat #1
42-3 Oscar Smith, lobster boat #2
42-8 Ralph Stanley, model for a generic lobster boat, c. 1915
42-11 Ralph Stanley model for a peapod lobsterboat, c. 1915
42-9 Ralph Stanley lobster boat, built 1970
42-10 William Upton, powered peapod, built in Millbridge, Maine, 1907
    Original boat is in the collection of the Penobscot Marine Museum
42-13 Penobscot wherry
42-14 Moosabec Reach boat
    Built by Freeman Beal, Beal’s Island, 1910
42-19 Mt. Desert Island lobster boat, c. 1930
    Plans taken from a model in the collection of Les King, Southwest Harbor
42-26 Tancook whaler, 1909
    Plan by Howard Chapelle