

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

Website : <https://sbmodelships.com/>

The Foghorn

February 2025



Fig.1. Cargo of Hearts (Dreamstime)





Future Course Headings...

- **Saturday, February 8, 2025, 2 PM: In-person SBMS meeting.** Our next In-person meeting will be on **Saturday, February 8 at 2 PM.** As usual, it will be held at:

Game Kastle
1350 Coleman Ave
Santa Clara, CA
(408) 243-4263

Bring your latest projects and other maritime goodies for discussion!

- **Thursday, February 20, 2025, 7PM: Monthly Zoom meeting.** And then our monthly Zoom meeting will be **Thursday, February 20 at 7 PM** so the Zoom specs will be sent out just before the meeting. Keep an eye on your inbox.

- **SBMS Membership Recruitment.** While the SBMS has still been holding well-attended meetings and very enjoyable model-building activities, it has not escaped our notice that the membership of this august club has been diminishing due to the aging of our members and unfortunate inevitable mortality. And so, we are considering a plan to recruit new interested parties to join our club.

Our plan is to obtain the names of NRG members who live in our area and contact them to see if they would be interested in joining our modeling club. We have started by harvesting the names of new NRG members whose names have been periodically published with the towns they live in by Mary Van Dahm of the NRG.

Then, we intend to send a recruitment package to Mary consisting of a cover letter invitation to join and a recent copy of the Foghorn that Mary could forward to the member without needing to violate the member's contact information privacy. Should the member find the club to be of interest, they can contact one of us on the SBMS board by email as listed in the Foghorn copy to make arrangements to join.

Should we want to recruit more people than just the new NRG members, we can ask that Mary provide us with a list of members from California to pick through to select those who live in or near the Bay Area, and then have her send our recruitment package to them to inspect.

I have started putting photos of our in-person meetings in the Foghorn showing our meetings to be well attended along with photos of members' models showing the excellent level of workmanship we put into them. Hopefully, these two items might encourage recruits to join our club realizing it to be an excellent socializing and learning experience.

We could also consider posting a club ad in the NRJ and post an ad in the Model Ship World Forum if that is allowed.

Finally, as this is not a trivial amount of work we are asking Mary Van Dahm to do, we should consider giving her a fee for the effort. We will have more discussion about this plan at our next In-person meeting on **February 8** at the Game Kastle in Santa Clara. Everyone is invited to send comments and suggestions on this plan in-person or by email to any of the club officers listed at the end of each Foghorn issue. Thanks for considering this important item.



Maritime Matters of the Month (Ken Lum)

- **Henry Huddleston Rogers Collection of Ship Models at the US Naval Academy Museum.** I visited this outstanding ship model collection at the **US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD** only once back in the mid 1980s, but, unfortunately, have never been able to return. My experience was mesmerizing, to say the least, and I wish I could see it once again especially since the remodeling of the museum in 2007–9 into more of an educational story-telling experience as well as an art and artifact gallery.



Fig. 2. Henry Huddleston Rogers (1879-1935) (US Naval Acad. Mus.)

The collection was originally assembled by, **Henry Huddleston Rogers (1879-1935)** (Fig.2), who was the son of one of the richest men in America at the time, **Henry Huttleston (with two t's) Rogers** who made his fortune by partnering up with John D. Rockefeller and brother William Rockefeller to found Standard Oil. The son was born in New York City and educated at Columbia University where he became interested in military affairs. He joined the New York National Guard in 1904 where he served with the Infantry, Engineers, and Artillery and saw action against Pancho Villa at the Texas/Mexico border.

Upon entry of the US into WW1 in 1917, the younger Henry volunteered with the Allied Expeditionary Force and went to France where he participated in a number of offensives on the Western Front. For these activities, he was awarded the US Army Distinguished Service medal, the French Croix de Guerre with palm and the Cross of the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Upon return to the US in 1919 he resigned his Army commission to manage his share of his father's fortune and business empire consisting mostly of railroads which he inherited from his father upon his death in 1909. He also took up life as a 'country squire' at an estate on Southampton Beach in eastern Long Island.



Fig. 3. Original display cases holding some models. (US Navy)

Henry began collecting ship models in the mid 1910s starting with Prisoner-of-War models and then moving onto Admiralty Dockyard Navy Board models as they became available. In the aftermath of WW1, many formerly noble houses in England became financially precarious. Among these were the descendants of **Charles Sergison (1655-1732)** who was Clerk of the Acts for the British Admiralty 1689-1719. The Sergison estate contained a large number of British

Admiralty ship models collected by the ancestral Sergison which had been in the family for over 200 years by the 1920s. Rogers made an offer of \$30,000, and the family reluctantly accepted as it needed the money to pay their bills.

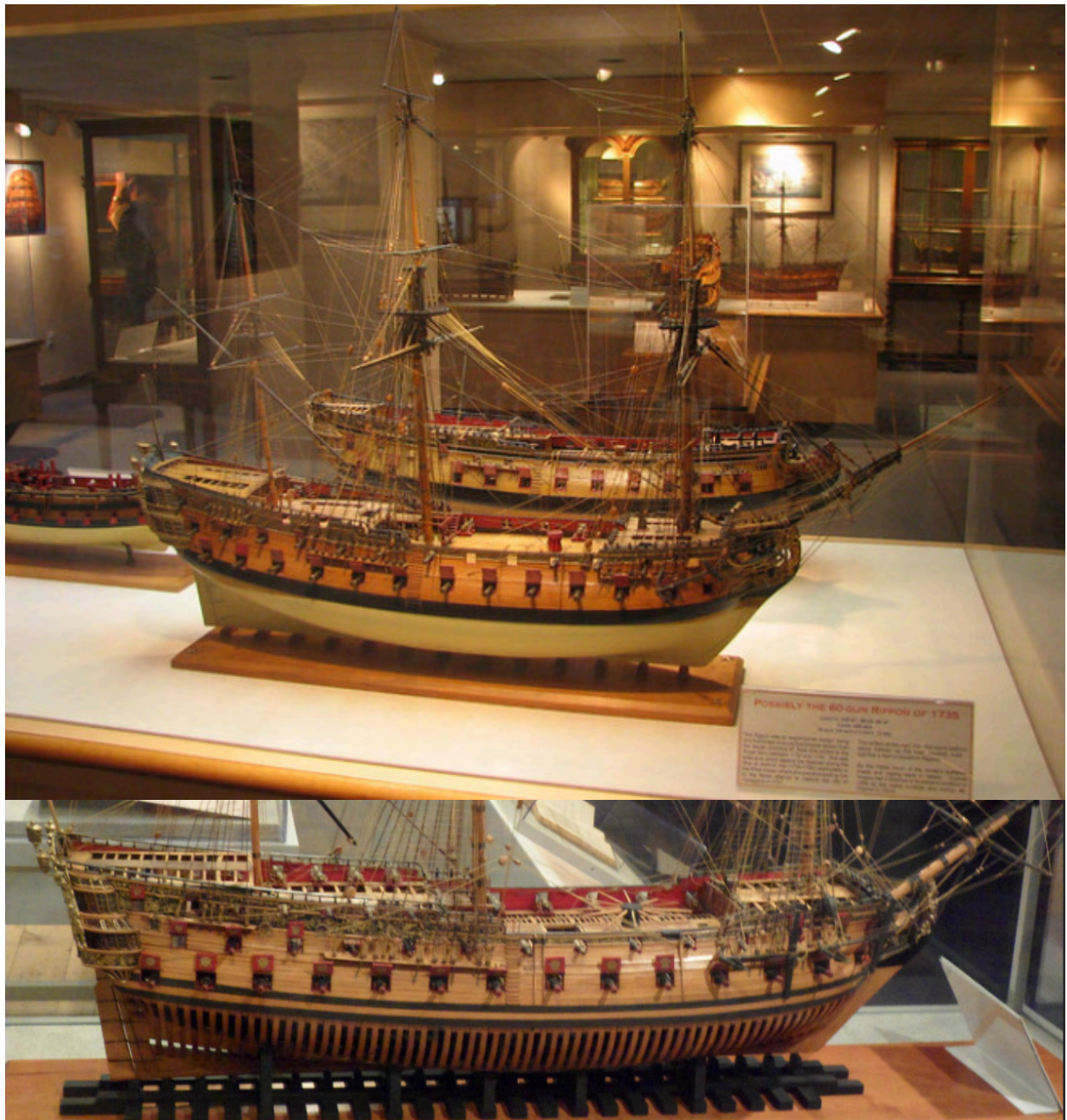


Fig. 4. A few of the very numerous magnificent admiralty dockyard models at the US Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, MD. (US Navy)

This collection was brought to the US where they were displayed in the Rogers' homes and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. More models were added to the collection over time until Rogers suffered a divorce from his wife, Mary, and the Great Depression hit in 1929. From thereon, he restricted his ship model activities to hiring the model makers, Fred Avery

and Charles G. Davis to clean and maintain the collection which eventually grew to 108 models covering mostly the period from 1650 to 1850.

Somewhere between 1923 to 1930, Rogers began negotiations to bequeath the collection to the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD. He died in 1935 from complications of pneumonia at age 55, and the collection was transferred to the Academy (Fig. 3 and 4) in 1937 where they constitute the largest collection of these kinds of models outside the UK. Only the Kriegstein collection (February, 2023 Foghorn) is comparable in numbers although there are models scattered around other collections such as the Thomson collection in Toronto, Canada (January, 2025 Foghorn) and one at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, etc.

Photo catalogues of this collection have been published from time to time with the latest one by Assistant Ship Model Curator, **Grant Walker**, currently in progress. Thus far, 3 volumes of a projected 4 volumes have been published and all are available through **SeaWatch books** (<https://seawatchbooks.com>). This is a superb resource of very well printed color photos for reference, enjoyment, and for those who are unable to visit the US Naval Academy (Fig. 5 and 6).

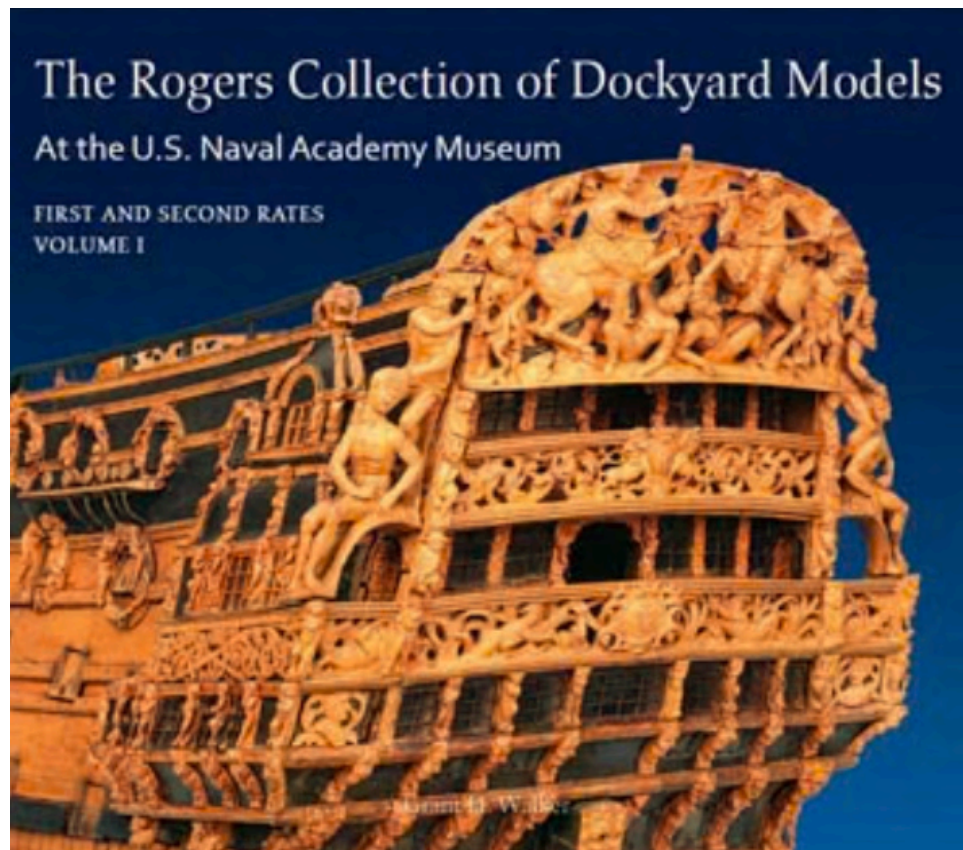


Fig. 5. Cover of **The Rogers Collection of Dockyard Models**, Vol.1.
(SeaWatch Books)

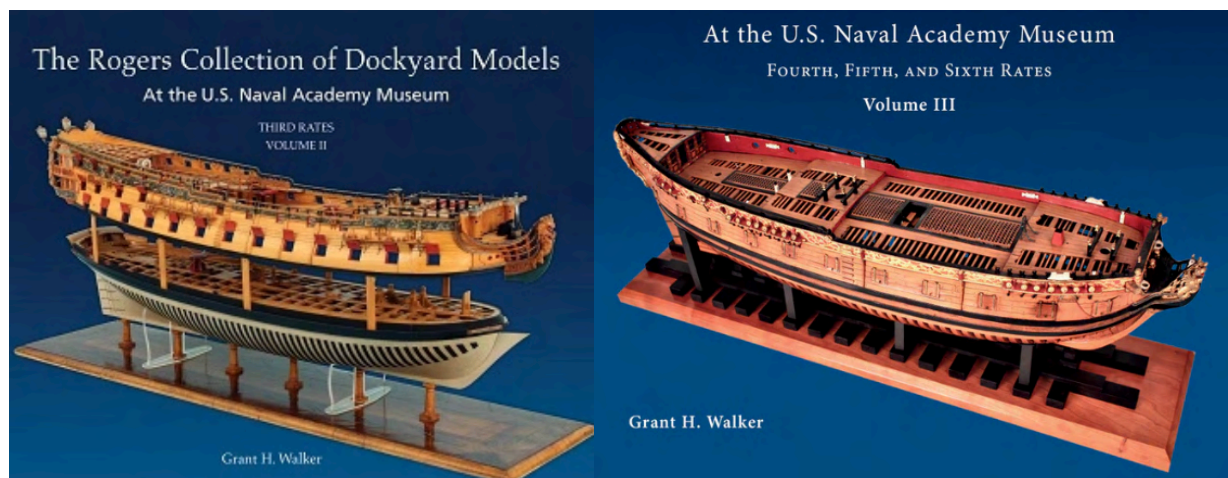


Fig. 6. Covers of **The Rogers Collection of Dockyard Models**, Vol.2 and 3. (SeaWatch Books)

In addition to these catalogues, Mr. Walker has carried out research on the ship models using X-rays, CT scans, and endoscopic examinations that have revealed important archeological discoveries about how the models were designed and built, seeing details and sometimes even finding notes left behind by the model builders not see for hundreds of years.

A visit to this museum is a must for any tour of eastern Virginia including Washington, D.C. and many other historic sights available in profusion on the US East Coast.



Kit News (Ken Lum):

- **HMS Harpy-Vanguard Models.** Chris Watton of Vanguard Models is at it again. His company has just released a new model of a two-masted brig-sloop called the **HMS Harpy** (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Model of **HMS Harpy** brig-sloop in 1/64 scale built from a Vanguard Models kit. (Vanguard Models)

Here is the ship's history as taken from the Vanguard Model's website: "**HM Brig Harpy** was a Royal Navy Diligence-class brig-sloop, launched in 1796 and sold in 1817. She was the longest-lived vessel of her class, and the most widely travelled. She served in both the battle of Copenhagen and the British invasion of Java, took part in several actions, one of which won for her crew a clasp to the Naval General Service Medal, and captured

numerous privateers. The Navy sold her in 1817.

Commander Henry Bazely commissioned **Harpy** in April 1796, for The Downs. **Harpy** belonged to the squadron that on 20 August captured **Augustic** and recaptured **Nelly**. Consequently, **Harpy** was entitled to share in the prize money. **Harpy** had a busy and illustrious career. The Commissioners of the Navy first offered **Harpy** for sale at Deptford on 3 April 1817. They sold her on 10 September to a Mr. Kilsby for £710."

The kit's instructions can be downloaded for inspection from the Vanguard Models website at: <https://vanguardmodels.co.uk>. It seems the kit is being offered on sale at discount for **£425.00** (\$527) from the full price of £490.00 (\$608) for now. The kit is also available from **Ages of Sail** (<https://www.agesofsail.com>) in San Lorenzo, CA for \$550. The model looks stunningly attractive! It continues Mr. Watton's mission of offering models of ships not often known about, giving the modeler more choices far beyond the usual models of **Constitution**, **Victory**, **Cutty Sark**, and **Endeavour**.



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard



Fig. 8. The attendees of our January 8, 2025 Game Kastle meeting. From left to right are Walt Hlavacek, Clare Hess, Jacob Cohn, Prez Jim Rhetta, George Sloup, John Garis, and Chris Gounarides engaged in vigorous discussion.



Fig. 9. *HMS Pickle* built by Jacob Cohn nearing completion. In the background is the Russian tender, *Avos*, built by George Sloup.



Fig. 10. Parts from an *HMS Victory* model done in photoetched metal by **Metal Earth Models** brought by John Garis. Fascinating how many of the parts have color anodized onto the metal.



Fig.11. An old clipper ship model brought in by Jim Rhetta in need of restoration with Clare Hess (L) and Jacob Cohn (R) looking on.



Fig. 12. George Sloup with a plastic kit of a Russian Man-O'-War named ***Goto Predestinatsia***. (***Гото Предестинация, The Providence of God***), c. 1700. This ship was Russia's first ship-of-the-line built from the skills brought back from England by Tsar Peter the Great. I could not find any indication that this ship was ever involved in any battle action during her time in Russian hands. She was sold to the Ottoman Empire in 1711. A replica of this ship was built in 2011-13 with a steel hull to serve as a museum attraction in the river town of **Voronezh** where the original ship was commissioned.



Fig. 13. Yacht ***Mary***, c. 1660 by Clare Hess from a Dusek kit. This ship brought Charles II back to England in 1660 after Oliver Cromwell died. Our club founder, Jean Eckert, scratch built a larger scale version which was purchased by Walt Hlavacek. (Feb., Mar., 2020, Foghorn)



Fig. 14. Virginia Pilot boat, *Swift*, 1805 from an Artesania Latina kit by Prez Jim Rhetta.. Jacob Cohn looking on.



SBMS Club Officers

President	Jim Rhetta	email: jmrhetta@aol.com
Vice President And Newsletter Editor	Ken Lum	email: lum40@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jacob Cohn	email: jcohnster@gmail.com
Harbor Master	George Sloup	email: george.p.sloup@outlook.com
Webmaster	Clare Hess	email: catopower@mac.com



Annual Club Membership

Send in your Club Membership fee with the attached renewal form. Submit a \$20 check made out to South Bay Model Shipwrights and mail to Jacob Cohn, 726 7th Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063. Mostly, we use the money to pay for our in-person meeting venues and hosting of our website (<http://www.sbmodelships.com>). Welcome Aboard!

Membership Form

Make check out for annual membership of \$20.00 to South Bay Model Shipwrights and mail to Jacob Cohn, 726 7th Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063

Print your name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____



Receive our Foghorn newsletter by email? Yes ___ No___

Email address _____

To order a club name badge, add \$15.00 to your check and print your name exactly as it should appear on the badge

