

MS 1 Howard I. Chapelle Papers

Dates: _____

Extent: _____

Repository: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Biographical/Historical Notes:

Internationally known marine architect and historian Howard Irving Chapelle was born in Tolland, Massachusetts in 1901. From 1919 to 1923 Chapelle studied at the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, now in Glen Cove, New York, although at the time, it was located in the Bronx.

He worked as a marine apprentice and draftsman until 1936 when he went into business for himself. During the early 1930s he supervised the New England section of the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey, a Works Project Administration undertaking designed to record the lines of indigenous American craft.

During World War II Chapelle was Commanding Officer of the Marine Transportation Section of the Army's Research and Development Division. After the war, he did field work in Canada and the Great Lakes, and in 1950 was a Guggenheim Fellow. As a Guggenheim Fellow he studied at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England.

Chapelle served as a consultant to the Turkish Government on behalf of the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization in 1956.

He joined the Smithsonian Institution as Curator of Transportation, in 1957, and became Historian of Marine Architecture in 1967.

Chapelle served as a consultant to many organizations during his career, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization at Rome, the National Science Foundation and the Department of the Interior. From 1964 to 1969 he was a visiting professor at the Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies at Mystic Seaport.

Chapelle was a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers and on the Board of Trustees of the Maritime Museums of Canada, and Kirkland Hall College. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels.

He wrote prodigiously on the history of American ship and small craft development, and published his first book, *THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER*, in 1930. By his own estimate he published over 350 designs of vessels.

Chapelle retired from the Smithsonian Institution in 1971, receiving the Secretary's Exceptional Service Gold Medal—he died in Lewes, Delaware, 1975, following a stroke.

Obit from NAUTICAL RESEARCH JOURNAL 135

MARINE HISTORIAN HOWARD CHAPELLE DIES

Internationally known maritime historian and author Howard I. Chapelle, 74, died Monday, 30 June 1975, in Lewes, Delaware, following a stroke. Historian of Marine Architecture at the Smithsonian Institution until his retirement in 1971, Mr. Chapelle first earned prominence as a marine architect and widely published author. His field research and writings on the history of sailing ship design and construction made him leading authority in the field.

Born in Tolland, Mass., in 1901, Mr. Chapelle early developed his lifelong interest in the sea and its ships. In 1919, he studied to be a marine architect at the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, which he attended until 1923. Chapelle's introduction to ancient origins of ship design at Webb sparked field work in New England, later spreading throughout the U.S. to Canada and Europe.

Active professionally as a marine architect after 1932, designing fishing vessels, military craft and supply vessels, Chapelle early in his career supervised the gathering of data for the New England section of the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey. The Marine Survey was an important early attempt to preserve historic records of America's maritime history which otherwise might have been lost to scholars.

During the Second World War, Chapelle was Commanding Officer for the Marine Transportation Section of the Army's Research and Development Division. Following the war, Chapelle first pursued field work in eastern Canada and on the Great Lakes. In 1950, as a Guggenheim Fellow, he studied American naval architecture at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, England, making important new finds on the history of American colonial ship design.

In 1956, on behalf of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization, Chapelle served as a consultant to the Turkish government as it attempted to increase its fishing fleets and the supply of fish available for market.

In September of 1957, Chapelle joined the Smithsonian as Curator of Transportation, becoming Historian of Marine Architecture in 1967. The most important marine specimen in the collections of the National Museum of History and Technology—the Revolutionary War gondola Philadelphia—came to the Smithsonian in 1962 through the efforts of Chapelle and his long-time friend Frank A. Taylor. Under Chapelle's direction, several hundred ship models were built and documented for the National Collections, making the Smithsonian's collections of naval and merchant ship models among the richest in the world. The Museum's "Hall of Merchant Shipping," researched and developed by Chapelle, opened in 1964 and continues on view today. Chapelle also supervised the difficult restoration of early Indian canoes for the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

A prolific writer, Chapelle published his first book, *The Baltimore Clipper*, in 1930. Publication of eleven more books and numerous articles and monographs followed; among his early works are *The History of American Sailing Ships* (1935), *The History of the American Sailing Navy* (1949) and *American Small Sailing Craft* (1951). His most recent writings include *The National Watercraft Collection* (1960), *The Search for Speed*

Under Sail (1968), The Constellation Question (1970) and The American Fishing Schooner (1973).

From 1964 to 1969, Chapelle was a visiting professor at the Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut. Throughout his long career, he served as consultant to the Department of Interior, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization at Rome, the National Science Foundation, and to numerous naval history museums. He was notably generous in his advice to individuals and groups in the preservation or reconstruction of historic ships, including reconstructions of Columbus' Santa Maria and the U.S.S. Niagara. Upon Chapelle's retirement from the Smithsonian in 1971, he received the Secretary's Exceptional Service Gold Medal. Earlier awards included a Commendation for Outstanding Performance from the U.S. Army.

Chapelle was a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers and numerous other organizations in the U.S. and abroad. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Maritime Museum of Canada and of Kirkland College in Easton, Maryland.

Chapelle is survived by his wife, Alice, and a daughter, Mrs. Jarvis Appleton of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

A memorial service was held July 10th at 2 p.m. at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Rehoboth Beach. Chapelle's ashes were sprinkled at sea.

Descriptive Summary

Provenance/Acquisitions Information: _____

Scope and Content: The papers of Howard I. Chapelle consist of notes, printed materials, articles by others, some plans and correspondence. Much of the material is not original, but is source material collected by Chapelle.

The papers are divided into three basic sections: 1. Correspondence, 2. thematic folders, and 3. whole notebooks by Chapelle. Papers are arranged into the most specific topic heading as possible. However, a researcher would be advised to peruse the subject headings before beginning specific research.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Processing Level: Complete

Organization of Collection: Boxes and folders

Access Restrictions: None

Related Collections: Ships Plans: 1976.0042

Finding Aid Created by:

Bibliographic References: None

Container List

Box 1--Correspondence

Folders: *See additional finding aid, MS 1 Chapelle Papers_Correspondence

1. A—D
2. E—H
3. I—R
4. S
5. T—Z and unknown
6. Herbert J. Levey, 1938 – 1943
7. Wayne Yarnall, 1947-1956, 1967, 1973
8. Kirkland Hall College
9. ~~Smithsonian Institution and personal papers & photographs~~

Thematic Folders

Box 2

American Shipbuilding
AMERICA, yacht
Arctic
Bahamas, some original drawings, not necessarily Chapelle
Baltimore Clippers--some notes Chapelle
Bermuda-Built ships
Block Island boats--some notes Chapelle

Bibliographical notes--some notes. Chapelle
Boat types
British Records
Builder's catalogs

Box 3

California boats
Canoes
Cement boats
Chapelle designs
Chapelle news articles about, and obituaries
Chebacco boats
Chesapeake Bay--some notes Chapelle

Clippings, I--mostly from "National Fisherman" or "Maine Coast Fisherman"

Clippings, II. Mostly America's Cup materials
Clipper Ships--Chapelle notes
Colonial Shipbuilding
CONSTELLATION
Cutters--mss on HMS DE BRAAK by Chapelle

Box 4

Design--misc. some Chapelle notes
Dhows

Dory boats--some Chapelle notes. Also info. on Potomac River dory, BLACK NANCY

Engines--some Chapelle notes

Box 5

FAO Fisheries Reports--some notes Chapelle

Fish Commission--includes mss found in files from

Fish Commission written by Collins, 1885-1890. Corrections by Chapelle.

Fishing Boats

John Fitch mss.--unknown author

Foreign Boats, I. Some Chapelle notes

Foreign Boats, II, English Channel Boats, including mss, unknown author.

Foreign Boats, III. All Chapelle notes, over 60 loose pages, and various clipped pages. All types, European

Friendship Sloops

Fulton's steam battery

Box 6

Gaspé Boats

Grand Banks schooners

Great Lakes--some notes Chapelle

Gunning Boats

Box 7

HAMMS , I

Historic American 'Merchant Marine Survey--Notes, Notebooks, 1 & 2 by Chapelle on Gloucester Fishing Schooners, 1933. Original notes with sketches.

HAMMS , II .

Field notes. Notebooks 3 & 4 by Chapelle on Gloucester fishing schooners. 1933. Notes, sketches, letters, loose materials.

Historic Clippings--clippings mostly from 19th century newspaper. i . e . "Le Yacht"

Hudson River

Samuel Hurlbrey's letterbook--xerox from US Naval Academy

Iron and Wooden Boats—mss by Chapelle with photos

Box 8

Elijah Kellogg boat

Captain Louis Kennedy

Laws' Notes, Seven folders, I-VII, Information gathered by Lt. Col. M.E.S. Laws at Public Records Office in London for *The Search for Speed Under Sail*. See

acknowledgments in *Search*, pg xiii. Mainly lists of boats and information, detailed research.

Box 9

- Maier-Form Ships
- Maine Boats—some possibly Chapelle
- Mauscripts from others, misc.
- Maritime Museums—small notebook on Scandinavian museums by Chapelle
- McKay, Donald and Laughlin (Lauchlin) McKay—notes from *Practical Shipbuilder*
- New England—one page could be Chapelle
- New York boats
- Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
- Ottoman Naval Vessels (Turkish Coast)

Box 10

- Pilot Boats, I—Chapelle introduction and outline to book,
List of designs on hand, 1966
- Pilot Boats, II—Chapelle notes, 40 original
- Pilot Boats, III—secondary sources
- Pinkies
- Pirogues
- Plans, misc. Three folders, I--III.

Box 11

- Plans, Royal Danish Archives, oversized box

Box 12

- Powerboats
- Printed material, misc.
- Privateers--notes by Chapelle on Captain's log from HMS PYRAMUS.
- Quincy skiff

Box 13

- Racing Fishermen, Essex, some correspondence to Chapelle
- Revenue Cutters
- Revolutionary War--18 pages Chapelle notes
- Sails/Rigging-- notes, sketches
- SANTA MARIA--report by Astilleros Cardona, 1963
- Schooners--notes by Chapelle, and four page [mss. by](#) Chapelle.
- Scows--some Chapelle. HAMMS on scow schooners

Sharpies--some Chapelle, includes corrected copy of "Migration of American Boat Type."

Box 14

Ship's logs
skiffs
Slave Trade, Court Cases
Slave Trade, notes--120 pages notes by Chapelle. Lists of vessels & specifications
Sloops
Small Boats
Smithsonian Exhibit Planning - notes on S. I. collections
 See also notebook with half-model tracings.
Steamboats

Box 15

Torpedo boats - British - notes
Towboats - notebook, "Towboats and Tugs"
Viking ships
Yachting, history of
Watercraft Collection - typescript of second edition

Box 16

Small craft notebook - Chapelle, notes
Towboat notebook, Chapelle, W W II

Box 17

Notebook, marine plans and lines, 1945

Box 18

Three notebooks from War Department, Chapelle

Box 19

Correspondence - Genealogical
 - General
 - Smithsonian
Miscellaneous
Notebook, Robinsons Boatyard
Field Book, notes, drawings

Box 20

Clippings from *Forest and Stream* – 1922
Clippings from *Motorboating* – 1955
 Yachting Monthly – 1957
 Yachting World- 1957
 Rudder - 1952
 Yachts & Yachting - 1950s
 Yachting and Rudder - 1932, 1954, 1957
 Miscellaneous, unidentified
Reprints: *Boats and Boating* (pp. 255-286); Appendix, source unknown

Box 21

Scrapbooks, Vols. 1 and 2 - Clippings of articles, photos and plans

Vol. 1 - 1912-1924 - "Yachts, Fishermen & Canoes"

Old 40-footers	Racing schooners
Schooner yachts	Dinghies
Topsail schooners	Kayaks
Fishermen	Punts
Racing sloops	Yawls
Ketches	Tugs
Privateers	Fireboats
Steam yachts	Cutters
Motorboats	Sharpies
Canoes	1-meters
Sailboats	6-meters
Sandbaggers	Viking ship

Vol. 2 - 1924-1925 - "Canoes, Yachts, Steamers, Ships"

Plates from Forest and Stream
Shipping Board sketches

Skows (sic)	Punts
Canoe yawls	Plates, Kuhnarts Small Yachts
Long ships	Schooners
Galleys	Cutters
Dinghies	Sharpies
Single-handers	Junks

Box 22

Scrapbooks, Vols. 3 and 4 - Clippings & plans

Vol. 3 - 1925

Schooners	Outrigger canoes
Workboats	Sailing canoes
Yachts	Catboats
Warships	Hunting boats
Dredgers	Tugs
Fishermen	Proas
Ketches	Cutters

Ships: Scows; Half-raters; Whaleboats

Vol. 4 nd.

Fishermen	Sonder boats
Scows	Tugs
Royal Yachts	Cutters
Sloops	Single-handers
Catboats	Gondolas

Box 23

Scrapbooks, Vols. 5 and 6 - Clippings & plans
Vol. 5 - nd.

Clippings from *Yachting* (1933)
"How to Build" - 45 foot Pelican
- 15 foot sloop Kismet
- 8 foot "Nize Baby"

Sloops	Yachts
Sailing dinghies	Schooners
Viking ship models	8-meters
Ships, 18th-19th century	Ketches
Cruisers	Yawls
Motorboats	Cutters

Vol. 6, nd.

Clippings from *Yachting* (1920s/30s);
Journal de la Marine (1880s); *Rudder*;
Le Yacht; *Yachting Monthly*
Bugeye Sharpies
Malay koleh Sailing canoes
Junks Prams

Box 24

Scrapbook, Vol. 7 - Clippings & plans
Vol. 7, nd.

Clippings from *Le Yacht*; *Yachting* (1940s); *Rudder* (1940s); *Maine Coast Fisherman* (1950s); *Model Yachtsman & Canoist*

Penciled lines of schooner *Ethlyn* (1919)

Box 25

Scrapbook, unnumbered, undated.

Contains plans and lines for numerous named vessels
from the late 1800s, by designers C. P. Clayton, Dixon Kemp, William Fife, and others. A list of named vessels is inside box.
Inscribed photo of James B. Connolly

The following papers were added to the Howard I. Chapelle Manuscript Collection in 5/84 by Richard J. Dodds, Curator of Collections. See Library 84-7.

Box 19

Correspondence, genealogical Correspondence, general

Correspondence, Smithsonian Institution Miscellaneous

Robinson's Boatyard--notebook of offsets

The following papers were added to the Howard I. Chapelle Manuscript Collection in 4/85 by Richard J. Dodds, Curator of Collections. See Library 85-5.

Box 19

Field Book--notes and drawings

Photo envelopes from American Electric Welding

The following papers were found in the museum's collections June 1994, and were added to MS 1 by Aimee Robertson, June 30, 1994

Box 19

Typed English translation of *Historical Narrative of the Voyage to South America* by Don Jorge Juan

pages 4 and 5 of 5-page letter to Chapelle from Fritz A. Rabe, dated July 16, 1952

Reprint of article "Frederik Henrik at Chapman" by Gustaf Halladin, printed in German

Separate collection given by Lewes Historical Society, in exchange for a boat. See Library 83-2. S. Buchman, Curator of Collections.

Box 1

Chapelle's Manuscripts of;
American Fishing Schooners

Page Proofs 1 - 371 Dated 1/30/73 Text Galley Proof 1-57, Dated 8/10/72
Acknowledgments Galley Proof Dated 8/10/ Introduction Galley Proof. ,Dated 8/10/72
List of Chapelle Books, Galley Proofs Dated 8/10/72

Title Page Galley Proofs, Dated 8/10/73 Caption, Galley Proofs, Dated 2/15/73 Caption,
Show Proofs, Dated 2/1/73

Captions Plate Proof, by Chapter, 1-8 no date

Revised running heads, 1-14, no date

Box 2

Chapelle's Manuscripts of; American Fishing Schooners

Proofs of Test Headings for type size, 1-13 , no date

Proofs of Index for type size,1-23, no date

Proofs of captions for graphics, 1-13, no date

Galley Proofs of text, 1-57%, no date

Copy of the drawing of the pinky Trenton, a sharpshooter, a schooner Sylph, a sharpshooter schooner We'er Here, a Chebaco boat, pinky Eagle, all drawn by George C. Wales

Proofs for Drawing Captions, 2pages, no date

Graphic, Russell pattern, plunger pumps, 2 pages, no date

Galley proof on the Peak Halyard Bridles, 1-4, no date

Notes and drawings: uut of order, about 250 pages

Box 3

Chapelle's, American Fishing Schooner

Captions for Plates, 1-6

Galley Proofs of; title page, index, acknowledgments,and introduction, dated 1/22/73

Proofs of Illustrations 2 pages, 2/1/73 Proofs of Illustrations 6 pages, 1/22/73 lines of the La Phoenix (reversed) Photos, Schooners, some used, some not Show Proofs, of the text, 4/19/72

Notebook: Notebook on Details of Gloucester Fishi" Schooners, 1-188

Galley Proofs of the Notebook on Details of Gloucester Fishing Schooners, no date

Box 4

Chapelle's American Fishing Schooners

Details of Gloucester Fishing Schooner (Clean Copy) no date

Galley Proofs; American Fishing Schooner 1/18/73

Page Proofs; Paste Up's ; American Fishing Schooners 8/10/72

Box 5

Chapelle's American Fishing Schooner

Galley Proofs; 1/30/73, Notebook on Details of Gloucester Fishing Schooners

two Copies , Galley Proofs of the complete text.

--Constance Cummings January 1984

Additional background material from the Smithsonian Institution Archives

BIBLIOGRAPHY - Howard I. Chapelle

The Baltimore Clipper, its origin and development. Salem, Mass., Marine Research Society, 1930.

The history of American sailing ships. New York, W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1935.

The history of the American sailing navy. New York, W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. 1949.

American small sailing craft, their design, development and construction. New York, W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. 1951.

Old American sailing craft. New York, Kennedy Publishing Co., 1936

Boatbuilding. New York, W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1941

Yacht Designing and Planning. New York, W. W. Norton & Co., Inc.

Report to the Government of Turkey on fishing boats: FAO Report 706, under expended technical assistance program. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, pp. 101, p1. 43, 1957.

The National Watercraft Collection. United States National Bulletin 219. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1960.

The Pioneer Steamship Savannah: A study for a scale model. United States National Museum Bulletin 228. Washington: Printing Office, 1961.

The Migrations of an American boat type. Paper 25, United States National Museum Bulletin 228. Washington, Government Office, 1961.

Fulton's "Steam Battery": Blockship and Catamaran. Paper 39, United States National Museum Bulletin 240. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1964.

The Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America. United States Museum Bulletin 230. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1964

The Search for Speed Under Sail. New York W. W. Norton & Co. 1967; London: George Alien & Unwin Ltd., 1968.

Articles published in magazines and journals by Howard I. Chapelle

Yachting magazine 1932-40
New Haven Sharpie

Chesapeake Bay Skipjack
Friendship Sloop
Bermuda Sloops & Dinghies
Bahama Sharpshooter
3-part article on Fishing Schooners
3-part articles on Pilot Schooners
3-part article on Nova Scotia Tern Schooners
Hampden Boats
Pinkies
Gloucester Sloop Boats
Cape Cod Catboat

Boats

2-part article on sharpies

American Neptune

Study of Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks (1944)
Design of American Frigates of the Revolution
Numerous Letters Published

Mariners Mirror (English)

American Frigates, War of 1812
Numerous letters published

Fishing Boats of the World

Some American Fishing Launches, Vol. I
Notes on the Design of Fishing Boats, Vol. II

The Mariner

The Cutter Diligence
The Wasp and Hornet
The Argus

Twenty Boats

Gundalow
Waterman

Maine Coast Fisherman

Numerous letters on technical matters

Smallest Schooner, a Pinky

The Planimeter

The Small Craft Designer

Yachting Monthly (English)

Metacentric Shelf, (The argument against)
Numerous technical letters

Encyclopaedia Articles

Boats - *Encyclopaedia Britannica*

Boatbuilding - *Funk and Wagnalls*

Work in progress - Howard I. Chapelle

1. The Constellation Question 1970
2. The American Fishing Schooner 1973
3. ~~American built Merchant Ships in the Royal Navy During the Revolution~~
4. ~~Research on the development of commercial scows (schooners and sloops)~~
5. Revision of the *National Watercraft Collection*
6. Revision of article "Boatbuilding" in *Funk and Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopedia*

From Chapelle papers

August 18, 1972

Mr. Maurice Griffiths
Maplin, Dukes Meadow
Woodbridge, Suffolk
England

My Dear Griffiths:

It is splendid to hear from you again. I knew of your retirement, but did not have your new address. I too have retired, a year ago last February 27, 1971. I do retain an office in the Smithsonian, now with the title Historian Emeritus. It is convenient. I have gone literary, my 12th book will be published November 13, 1972. This deals with the Gloucester Fishing schooners and will contain 137 lines and over 300 details of build, rig, and fittings, along with a story of their development. I sold my 22' skipjack last year-a little too much for me at 71 years. All that I have now is a 9'-6" sailing pram with a very modern and complicated rig. I have a waterfront property of 184 acres, which is hardly comparable with my big ship. (I am still drawing but I find the brain is not like it used to be. There are two coves on the property allowing 3 to 4 feet at low tide in each. With a six room house and forest land we are content, but as this is in the country, the time will soon come when we must move into town for the necessary services.

The data you asked for: Howard Irving Chapelle, born February 1, 1901, Educated in New Haven and Waterbury, Connecticut. Served as marine apprentice and draftsman until 1936 when I went into business for myself. I worked for William Gardner, Charles Mower, William H. Hand, John G. Alden, Eldredge McInnis and Frank Payne between 1920 and 1936. During the war I was Captain, Major and Lt. Colonel in the U. S. Army, in charge of ship and boatbuilding program with two commendations. In 1956 I went to Turkey as advisor on fishing vessel construction and fitting. Went to the Smithsonian Institution in 1957, where I remained until I retired-with a gold medal for distinguished service to the Smithsonian.

Books:

- The Baltimore Clipper
- The History of the American Sailing Ships
- Yacht Design and Planning, 2nd Edition
- Boatbuilding
- The History of the American Sailing Navy
- Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America
- Report to the Turkish Government on fishing boats
- American Small Sailing Craft
- The National Watercraft Collection
- Search for Speed Under Sail
- The Constellation Story
- The American Fishing Schooners (in process)
- American Sailing Craft

Appendix to the National Watercraft Collection (in process)

I lost count of articles etc. but I think over 50 such things were written.

John Alden-I do not know what G. stood for-was from Troy, New York and I believe he was a Harvard dropout. He served an apprenticeship to Bowdoin B. Crowninshield who was a Harvard graduate. Alden died recently, in Florida I believe. The firm still exists-John G. Alden & Co., Inc., State Street, Boston, Massachusetts may reach them.

Day I know nothing about. He was owner and editor of Rudder from its beginning up to about the first world war. Rudder still survives and may have information on Day.

I believe that I have drawn and published over 350 plans of vessels and am responsible for 49 boat designs and 70 fishing vessel designs. I want to do a book on American pilot boats and take another shot at American Small Sailing Craft. Am working on pilot boats and an appendix to the National Watercraft Collection.

The state of yacht design had reached the level of horror that I turned to fishing vessel design soon after the last war. Host of my fishing vessel design was for Canadian parties, and I turned out 10 designs for the Turks. I can not yet stomach the modern plastic and concrete abortions even now.

Regards.

Sincerely,
Howard I. Chapelle
Historian Emeritus
Department of Industries

Smithsonian Institution Archives 7228 August 1978
HOWARD I. CHAPELLE PAPERS, 1969-1975 (2 cubic feet).

Howard I. Chapelle (1901-1975), marine architect and historian, began his career as a marine apprentice and designer in 1919. He worked for a number of shipbuilders until he went into business for himself in 1936. During this period, Chapelle also served as head of the New England section of the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey, a Depression-era project to gather information on American maritime history and provide work for destitute marine architects.

Chapelle's business was interrupted by World War II, during which he served in the United States Army Transportation Corps' ship and boatbuilding program. Following the war, he pursued his interest in the history of marine architecture, travelling to England in 1950 to study colonial ship design on a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1956-1957, Chapelle went to Turkey under the auspices of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization to serve as a consultant to the Turkish government on fishing vessel

construction and fitting.

Chapelle was appointed Curator in the Division of Transportation, National Museum of History and Technology in 1957. He served in that position until 1967 when he became Senior Historian. While at the Museum, he directed the planning and construction of hundreds of ship models for the Hall of Merchant Shipping. Chapelle retired in 1971, becoming Historian Emeritus in the Museum. A prolific writer, Chapelle authored a number of books on maritime history and marine architecture.

These papers of Howard I. Chapelle consist of his professional correspondence while he was Senior Historian and Historian Emeritus. Very little is concerned with Museum or Division of Transportation affairs. The correspondence concerns the history of naval architecture, amateur boatbuilding, availability of ships' plans, the restoration of historic ships, and the publication of Chapelle's later works. Correspondents include museum curators, historians, naval architects, amateur boatbuilders, and model builders.

Dates: 1966-1970 1971-1975

Box 1

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Folders 1 - 16 Box 5	Labadic - Nutting	
Folders 1 - 16 Box 6	O'Connell - Sayre	
Folders 1 - 19	Scadding - Zoetruider	

Richard V. Szary August 1978

H.I. Chapelle's

THE History of The American Sailing Navy: the ships and their development

Plans

* blue Lines available

Facing Page

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* 1. Draught of	36-gun frigate New York	169
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* 12. Draught of	32-gun frigate Boston	185
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7. Spar and sail plan of Raleigh, 1777	76
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