

custom house

MARITIMES

WINTER 2009



TUG BOATS & *LITTLE TOOT*: THE ART OF HARDIE GRAMATKY & 100 YEARS OF NEW LONDON TUGS

on view through April 15, 2009

Celebrate the sturdy, adorable, dependable tug at the Custom House this winter with special exhibitions, talks & classes. **Tug Boats & *Little Toot*: The Art of Hardie Gramatky** displays 30+ watercolors of New York harbor and Old Lyme, Connecticut, alongside original illustrations, a notebook, a story board & Disney film cell (signed by Walt!) from Gramatky's *Little Toot* series of books and film.

Objects in **100 Years of New London Tugs** date back to late 19th-century New London's Thames Tow Boat Co. and extend to today's Wronowski tugs. They include half hull models, archival records, tug boat portraits and photographs. Continuing the tug boat theme are tug boat paintings by contemporary artists Steve Cryan, William Hanson and James Magner.

February's **Third Thursday** is our first Jibboom Roundtable, where seasoned tug boat workers share their on-boat experiences. In conjunction with the Hardie Gramatky exhibition, March's **Third Thursday** talk features graphic novelist Jon Buller with boatbuilder David S. McCulloch *See inside calendar for details.*

Above: East River #1, Hardie Gramatky, watercolor on paper, 1939. Right: Tugboat Miles Standish, photograph. Thames Tow Boat Co. Archive. NLMS collection.

Find out more about our programs at www.nlmaritimesociety.org.

related events

FEBRUARY

19 Third Thursday
Jibboom Roundtable:
New London Tugs

MARCH

7 Intro to Cartooning
with Jon Buller

17, 24, 31 & April 7
Creating a Graphic
Novel

19 Third Thursday
Jon Buller & David
S. McCulloch



from the PRESIDENT

HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL. And a productive and prosperous New Year for the New London Maritime Society and the Custom House Museum in fulfilling its core mission, as promised in its By-Laws:

The mission of the Society is to preserve and promote the maritime history of the City of New London and its people, its port, New London Harbor, the Thames River and Long Island Sound through its collections, library, archives, museum exhibitions, educational programs, publications, and in collaboration with other institutions; and to preserve and maintain the 1833 Robert Mills U.S. Custom House.

Despite a difficult year in 2008, this organization is strong in physical assets, and is especially strong in professional and personal assets. The Custom House remains the “Gem on the Shoreline” that the original New London City Council foresaw for its future, with valuable and growing archives and exhibits. The professional guidance provided by Susan Tamulevich during this last year has been expert, proactive and personal, as it should be. The interest in and appreciation for this organization, as reflected in the enthusiasm of its volunteers and its visitors, is solid and growing. Its endowments and special funds have survived the worst financial attack since the Great Depression.

Now for the challenges for 2009:

1. The Museum structure needs immediate and sustained work, to maintain and preserve what we have and also to develop areas that will increase its attraction for appropriate private functions.
2. The excellent professional and public programs have been under-publicized and thus under-financed through donations and charges. The Director will take a larger responsibility for the budgetary aspects of our public functions, as well as for an aggressive approach to Grant applications. This is in keeping with the development of a realistic and balanced Budget for 2009.
3. Public announcements and advertising will be substantially expanded throughout our greater service area, as defined in our Mission Statement.
4. The endowments and special funds must be enhanced through targeted grants and donations, especially from surrounding corporations and businesses. In addition, and in response to our own expanded efforts, grantors and fund donors will be asked to make not only interest and dividends available for the Operating Budget, but also rarely urgent funding from the Corpus of the Funds on an ad hoc basis...in keeping with the stated purpose of those funds to enhance the work of the organization.
5. The Governance of the NLMS is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees acting as a whole. This requires not only interest but also information, active participation through fund-raising and/or volunteer work, and a pro-active view toward the future of the organization and its mission.

Personally, I pledge my best efforts to guide the NLMS as your President and Board Chairman throughout 2009. And I thank you for the opportunity and for the confidence that you have placed in me.

George A. Sprecace, M.D., J.D.



Did you know? The Custom House is open *year-round*.

Visit the Custom House for programs, classes and fun. Our two special tug exhibits have been extended to run through April 15.

Winter hours are Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 1—5 pm, or by appointment. Call 860-447-2501 to arrange a special tour.

Above: illustration from *Little Toot & the Lock Ness Monster*, pg. 41, *Hardie Gramatky*, watercolor on paper, 1978.

from the DIRECTOR

Perhaps the *best quality* of the Custom House is that **we really are your museum**. Two recent events brought that point home to me. We'd met Kathy Gaynor last summer when she came to see the *Two Lives of the Grandma Sue* exhibition. Turns out, after the sailboat left the Chester family, it was purchased by Kathy's brother, John Gaynor, and Kathy and her family had spent many hours aboard the boat. Since that visit Kathy has joined the museum as a volunteer and this week brought in photos she'd come across of those happy times on the *Grandma Sue*. Copies of the photos are now posted online and will be entered in our archives.

The second telling incident was a surprise visit from 93-year-old Harold Haviland, now living in West Virginia, but who had grown up in New London at #2 Star Street. As a child, Harold delivered the newspapers. Among his customers were agents at the Custom House. The agents never let Harold inside the building so, when he knocked on our door, we finally gave him that opportunity! In exchange, Harold shared—and acted out—stories of prohibition days, when bottles of confiscated alcohol were smashed against the Custom House wall—to the dismay of some observers but to the delight of a gaggle of local kids—Harold among them.

Visit the Custom House. We want to hear—and keep—your stories.

Susan Tamulevich

FEBRUARY

17—20 Class: New London Time Machine 12:30—3:00 PM. Celebrate Black History Month! This program runs Tuesday through Friday from 12:30 to 3:00 pm. Each day participants visit a different historic site & a different century. For middle-school aged children, only (grades 5 to 8), pre-registration is required as space is limited. *A special fund allows us to waive registration fees for children from New London.* Participants who attend all four sessions will receive an award. Presented with Kente Cultural Center and NLCHS. Fee: \$40. Call 443-1209 to register.

19 Third Thursday 6:30—8:00 PM. A Jibboom Roundtable: Working Tugs in New London. Join us for a lively discussion with area tugboat workers. Join in and share your own tug boat stories. Tickets are \$7; admission *FREE* to NLMS members.

MARCH

3 First Tuesday Heritage Workshop. Recording Family Memories: An Introduction to Oral History 6—7:30 PM. As a part of our 175th anniversary celebration of the New London Custom House, we are offering a series of **First Tuesday Heritage Workshops** designed to help you preserve your personal heritage. Curator of Collections and Oral Historian at Mystic Seaport **Fred Calabretta** provides an overview and teaches the techniques of taking oral histories. Tickets are \$10; \$8 for members and nonmember preregistrations *before* March 1. Call 447-2501 to register.

7 Class: Introduction to Cartooning Workshop 10—11:30 AM. In conjunction with the **Tugboats & Little Toot** exhibition, graphic novelist **Jon Buller** will teach an introductory workshop on Cartooning. Ages 8—16. Fee: \$15. Materials included. Call 447-2501 to register.

17 Class: Creating a Graphic Novel: Cartooning Basics. Tuesdays, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 3:30—5:00 pm. In this 4-session class, cartoonist **Jon Buller** teaches the techniques necessary to create a graphic novel. Class size is strictly limited to allow time for one-on-one direction. Ages 8-16. Fee:\$45, Materials included. Enrollment limited to 15 students.

19 Third Thursday 6:30—8:00 PM. Sailing to Faradawn. In 2005, **Jon Buller** of Lyme was working on the illustrations for *The Fog Mound*, a graphic novel trilogy for kids written by his wife Susan Schade, and scheduled for publication by Simon and Schuster beginning in 2006. He knew that a small boat named *Heloise* would be an important element in the story of volume two, but had no exact idea of what this boat would look like. Then, at a display of boats built by boatbuilder **David McCulloch** at his home in Old Lyme, Buller saw a sleek, single-seat trimaran built by McCulloch, and he knew that he had found his *Heloise*. Jon Buller will discuss how he adapted David McCulloch's boat to fit the needs of the fantasy novel, and David McCulloch will discuss the real-world boat and the design considerations that went into its construction. The boat itself will be on display in the museum. Tickets are \$7; admission *FREE* to NLMS members.

21 Opening: The Robert Stewart Ship Model Collection. 6:30—8:00 PM. Celebrate the installation of naval engineer & modelmaker Robert Stewart's remarkable collection of miniature 20th-century ship models, which he generously donated to the Custom House Maritime Museum. The ships will be displayed with their notebooks/research in the Frank McGuire Memorial Research Library. *FREE*.

APRIL

7 First Tuesday Heritage Workshop. Restoring the Period Garden. 6—7:30 PM. As a part of our 175th anniversary celebration of the New London Custom House, we are offering a series of **First Tuesday Heritage Workshops** designed to help you preserve your personal heritage. Landscape architect **Sheila Wertheimer** discusses the restoration of historic gardens for period homes. Tickets are \$10; \$8 for members and for preregistrations *before* April 4, Call 447-2501 to register.

16 Third Thursday 6:30—8:00 PM. Revitalizing Robert Mills Designed Buildings, with emphasis on the U.S. General Post Office building, Washington, D.C. and the New Bedford Custom House, Mass., with Guzman-Prufer, Inc. architecture's Senior Architectural Conservator, **Andrea Mones**. Tickets are \$7; admission *FREE* to NLMS members. AIA CT members may use the Self Report Form to report 1.5 hours of Continuing Education.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I/We wish to belong New London Maritime Society in the class checked.

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New London Maritime Society
150 Bank Street
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Fax: (860) 447-8086
E-Mail: nlmaritime@gmail.com:



The Custom House Maritime Museum
is on the National Register of
Historic Places.

Membership Classes

- Student: \$10 / Year
- Individual: \$25/Year
- Family: \$35 / Year
- Contributor: \$50 / Year
- Sponsor: \$100 / Year
- Patron: \$500 / Year
- Benefactor: \$1000 / Year
- Corporate: \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 / Year**

Membership Privileges

- Quarterly Newsletters
- 10% Discount in Museum Store
- Invitation to special events
- Free admission to the Museum
- Free admission to most programs
- 10% discount on ticketed events
- **Call for corp. member benefits

Pay by check to NLMS or credit card: Visa ___ Mastercard ___ AmEx ___

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ 3 or 4 digit sec code: _____

JOIN the New London Maritime Society!

Free Admission to Third Thursday talks & special programs
Member Discounts - 10% off museum shop purchases
Invitations to Special Events
Quarterly Newsletters

GET INVOLVED

Watch the Web site: nlmaritimesociety.org
Have your kids learn Cartooning with Jon Buller
Volunteer as a Greeter, Docent, Educator, Collections aid
Attend Custom House Heritage programs & bring a friend
Join our Saturday Work Crew
Sign up for our email blast

Donate from our WISH LIST

Hand Tools
Cleaning supplies
Vacuum Cleaner
Refrigerator
Apple computer/monitor
Powerpoint Projector
InDesign program
Tape recorder/oral history
Grand Piano



The New London Maritime Society announces its annual **Reid MacCluggage Maritime History Scholarship** for area high school Juniors and Seniors. Students must submit a literary piece based on the theme: the African-American experience in the maritime world, by **February 27, 2009**. First place receives a \$1,000 scholarship and second place receives a \$500 savings bond. Download the scholarship flier at nlmaritimesociety.org.

We wish to thank our contributors to the new Robert Mills-New London Custom House exhibition: **Thomas Hahn, R.J. Phil, Four Color Inc, Studio 33, Yale Center for British Art, Blu-Prints Unlimited, and G. Roger Clements/Sasqua Design**. A special thanks to our major funder, the **Connecticut Humanities Council**, and to the **Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism**. *Thank you all!*

Join our **Cribbage Wednesdays**: 2/11 & 3/11 from 1-3 PM; 2/25 & 3/25 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Beginners welcome! Donations accepted.

The Custom House Jibboom Room, Amistad Gallery, & Tented Courtyard are available to rent for private functions. Call 447-2501.

Members/Donors since July '08

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New London Maritime Society

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New London Maritime Society Custom House Maritime Museum

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New London, Connecticut 06320

www.nlmaritimesociety.org



Above: from *Sailing to Faradawn*, by Jon Buller, 2005.

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