



**P.C. Coker Maritime Collection, 1963-2009 (bulk 1986-1997)
SCHS #0549.00**

Description: 4 Linear Feet (5 boxes + flat file)

Biog./Historical Note: Priestley C. Coker III is a native of Charleston, S.C., and an authority on Charleston maritime history. His illustrated history on that subject was published in 1987. He also authored the book *Building Warship Models*, published in 1974.

Scope and content: Collection consists of correspondence, notes, and research material chiefly relating to P. C. Coker's book *Charleston's Maritime Heritage, 1670-1865: An Illustrated History*, published in 1987. Correspondents include W. M. P. Dunne of *The Naval Scribe* and various marine artists. Research materials include copies of paintings and plans of ships which would serve as illustrations for the book, as well as newspaper clippings and other printed material. Topics include the frigate *John Adams*, colonial and antebellum commercial shipping, naval history of the Revolution and the War Between the States in Charleston, the *Hunley* submarine, and the *New Ironsides*. Also included are reviews of Coker's book and related letters. Miscellaneous items include two school papers (1963-1964) by Coker.

Preferred citation: Coker, P. C., 1942- P. C. Coker maritime collection, 1963-2009 (bulk 1986-1997). (0549.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: Photographs have been removed to the SCHS Visual Material collection.

Container Listing:

BOX 1

- 1 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1986-2009, and photocopies of primary and secondary research material.
- 2 Folder marked "Miscellaneous Correspondence." Letters dating 1984 to 2000 mainly concern research inquiries and permissions for illustrations.
- 3 Correspondence, 1986-2008. Some letters with attached research material.
- 4 Folder marked "S. C. State Museum." Includes correspondence, 1986-1992, and research.
- 5 Folder marked "Thanks." Letters, 1987-1988, thanking Coker for his book.

- 6 Folder marked "Miscellaneous Correspondence." Letters and emails, 1987-2000, some relating to reviews of and reactions to Coker's book.
- 7 Folder marked "Peabody Museum." Mostly correspondence, 1985-1987, including letters from Chad Smith (Philip Chadwick Foster Smith).
- 8 Correspondence, 1985-1987, with Merritt Edson, Clayton A. Feldman and others.
- 9 Correspondence, 1986-1988, with Harold M. Hahn and John F. Millar.
- 10 Mostly correspondence, 1976-1992, with The Naval Scribe (W. M. P. Dunne).
- 11 Mostly correspondence, 1985-1985, with Stephen R. Wise.
- 12 Mostly correspondence, 1986-1997, with various marine artists.

BOX 2

- 1 Two letters [1986?] from artist Dave Hammond, along with a pencil sketch of Civil War era warships, and photographs of some of Hammond's paintings.
- 2 Mostly correspondence, 1986-1987, with Brian Lavery and the National Maritime Museum.
- 3 Folder marked "Revolution" containing notes, correspondence, illustrations, etc.
- 4 Folder marked "War of 1812" contains research material.
- 5 Folder marked "Antebellum" contains mostly research material on commercial shipping, Adger's Wharf, etc.
- 6 Folder marked "Civil War" contains clippings, research, etc.
- 7 Folder marked "Post Civil War" contains clippings, research, and correspondence.
- 8 Material relating to the frigate *John Adams* (1799-1867).
- 9 Folder contains photocopies of the Rodgers Family Papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and related material. These papers relate to the frigate *John Adams*.
- 10 Copies of drawings, photographs, and paintings for illustrations.

BOX 3

- 1 Miscellaneous research on maritime history, including copies of material relating to the submarine *Hunley*, Thomas H. Jervoy, etc.
- 2 Clippings relating to Charleston maritime history, historic buildings, etc.
- 3 Miscellaneous research.
- 4 Folder marked "Illustrations" contains clippings, notes, copies of images, and related correspondence, 1986-1999.
- 5 Folder marked "MESDA" contains correspondence and copies of images, 1986-1987.
- 6 Folder marked "Mystic Seaport" contains correspondence and other material pertaining to the Mystic Maritime Gallery.
- 7 "Robert Cochran's U.S. Revenue Cutter *South Carolina*" by Florence Kern.
- 8 Illustrative material, mostly plans of ships.
- 9 Material relating to the Mariners Museum (Newport News, Virginia) including correspondence and information about paintings of ships.
- 10 Research material relating to the *New Ironsides*.

BOX 4

- 1 Mostly correspondence relating to the War of 1812 and the 1812 Bicentennial.
- 2 Resource data file (created by The Naval Scribe): "Operational History United States Frigate...John Adams," 1992.
- 3 Resource data files on the ships *Meshouda*, *Nonsuch*, *Carolina*, *Ferret*, *Gen. Pinckney*, *Vixen* and *Alligator*.
- 4 Resource data file: "United States Naval Activities at Charleston, South Carolina, 1798-1865."
- 5 Thesis: "The South Carolina Navy and the American Revolution" by Heyward A. Stuckey, 1972.
- 6 Research on Civil War ships including the *Hunley*.
- 7 Essays and research including "Newspaper Items relating to Shipping and Navigation, 1720-1800, copied from Philadelphia, Baltimore and Charleston, S.C. Newspapers," and "Shipwrecks of South Carolina and Georgia."

8 Miscellaneous printed material on various subjects.

BOX 5

- 1 Mostly miscellaneous printed material on various subjects.
- 2 Clippings and letters about the publication of Coker's book.
- 3 Letters and a form relating to the Library of Congress CIP program and Coker's book.
- 4 Material relating to copyright of Coker's book.
- 5 Two school papers by P.C. Coker, 1963-1964, one concerning Horatio Nelson.
- 6 Videocassettes: two cassettes marked "Charleston 2"
- 7 Videocassette marked "Charleston"

OVERSIZE MATERIAL

These large items are located in the flat file drawers and are numbered as 32-161. They include plans of the USS *New Ironsides* (interior and exterior); drawings and plans of the ship *L'Indien* and the Confederate ironclad ram *Tennessee*; gunboats; and the Revolutionary War brig *Fair American*.