

SS Master Society fonds

Dates of Creation: 1922 - 2007

Physical Extent: 38 centimeters of textual records
48 bound logbooks
161 photographs
2 compact discs

Administrative History:

In 1962 the Vancouver branch of the World Ship Society purchased the *S.S. Master*, the last surviving steam powered tugboat built in British Columbia in 1922. In 1976 the vessel passed into the care of the S.S. Master Society, a volunteer group formed and dedicated for the sole purpose of preserving the vessel. Since the 1980s the S.S. Master Society has received funding from individuals, corporations, local municipal government, and several federal government programs to aid in her restoration, upkeep, and participation in maritime festivals. The *S.S. Master* serves as a tribute to the tugboat industry on Canada's West Coast and is one of the distinct vessels anchored in the Vancouver Maritime Museum's Heritage Harbour.

The S.S. Master Society maintains a website with photographs, a calendar of *S.S. Master* events, historical facts, and membership information. As of June 2005, the website can be found at <www.ssmaster.org>

Custodial History:

The secretary of the S.S. Master Society has been traditionally responsible for the custody and maintenance of the society's records. A number of members have held this position since the Society was formed and include Bill Wylie, Bill Etchell, and Leonard McCann. The records that have been processed in this fonds are predominantly from those inherited by Leonard McCann who formally served as secretary from 1980-1990. Records dating from the mid 1990s to 2005 remain in the custody of Doug Shaw, the current secretary, and it is expected that they will be processed as part of this fonds at a later date.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of textual records relating to the history, administration and restoration of the *S.S. Master*. Records include agendas, minutes and annual reports; correspondence; registration and insurance documents; licenses; financial papers and grant proposals; a logbook recording crew hours; publications and media releases; newspaper clippings. The fonds also includes pilot house logbooks from the *S.S. Master* dating 1940-1959 that chronicle her activities while towing for Marpole Towing Company Limited.

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1 – Society minutes, constitutions and membership records
- Series 2 – Society financial records
- Series 3 – Society correspondence
- Series 4 – Society publications and events
- Series 5 – Newspaper clippings
- Series 6 – *S.S. Master* historical records
- Series 7 – *S.S. Master* logbooks

S.S. Master Society fonds

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on provenance of fonds.

Arrangement: The records were processed in May 2005 by Lisa Beitel, a professional Archivist, on request of the S.S. Master Society. A second accrual of records was processed in March 2006. The records have been arranged by subject into series. Within each series, records have been arranged chronologically in order to facilitate the removal of duplicate reports and printed materials.

Finding Aids: A box-file list is available.

Related Records: Photographs, negatives, and slides of the *S.S. Master* can be found in the Vancouver Maritime Museum photograph collection.

Conservation: Intensive cleaning of the logbooks was undertaken as they were quite dirty and a number of them exhibited severe water and mold damage as a result of being stored onboard the vessel for many years. The mold damage appeared to be old and a dry brush technique was used to remove the inactive dust. After consultation, some pages with extreme damage (blank pages found at the back of the books) were removed completely.

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Box-File List

Box 1

Series 1 - Society minutes, constitutions and membership records

- File 1.1 World Ship Society of Western Canada, 1961 – 1964
- File 1.2 Minutes and AGM Reports, vol. 1, 1972 – 1981
- File 1.3 Minutes and AGM Reports, vol. 2, 1982 – 1999
- File 1.4 Minutes and AGM Reports, vol. 3, 2000 – 2002
- File 1.5 Minutes and AGM Reports, vol. 4, 2003 – 2005
- File 1.6 Constitutions, 1972 – 2003
- File 1.7 Membership, 1973 – 2005
- File 1.8 Minutes and AGM Reports, vol. 5, 2006 –

Box 1

Series 2 - Society financial records

- File 2.1 Financial reports and grant applications, 1969 – 2004

Box 2

Series 3 – Society correspondence

- File 3.1 Correspondence, vol. 1, 1970 – 1979
- File 3.2 Correspondence, vol. 2, 1980 – 1989
- File 3.3 Correspondence, vol. 3, 1990 – 1999
- File 3.4 Correspondence, vol. 4, 2000 – 2006

Box 2

Series 4 – Society publications and events

- File 4.1 Society publications, vol. 1, no date
- File 4.2 Society publications, vol. 2, 1979 – 2007
- File 4.3 Publications *Telegraph, Shipworm*, 1985 – 2002
- File 4.4 Website, 2002
- File 4.5 Classic Boat Show (Victoria, BC) CD, 2002

Box 7

Series 5 – Newspaper clippings

- File 5.1 Newspaper clippings, 1960 – 1969
- File 5.2 Newspaper clippings, 1970 – 1979
- File 5.3 Newspaper clippings, 1980 – 1989
- File 5.4 Newspaper clippings, 1990 – 1999
- File 5.5 Newspaper clippings, 2000 – 2005

Box 7

Series 6 – S.S. Master historical records

- File 6.1 Builder's Certificate, ownership declaration, registry documents (originals), 1922
- File 6.2 Survey and registry papers, 1922 – 2005
- File 6.3 *S.S. Master* Crew Time Logbook, 1952 – 1958
- File 6.4 *S.S. Master* scrapbook (text), vol. 1, 1962 – 1964
- File 6.5 *S.S. Master* scrapbook (photos), vol. 2, 1962 – 1964
- File 6.6 Insurance, registration and licenses, 1969 – 2004
- File 6.7 Restoration and repairs, 1969 – 2004

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Box 3

Series 7 – S.S. Master logbooks

- File 1 *S.S. Master* logbook, April 2, 1940 – July 4, 1940
- File 2 *S.S. Master* logbook, July 6, 1940 – November 1, 1940
- File 3 *S.S. Master* logbook, November 2, 1940 – February 16, 1941
- File 4 *S.S. Master* logbook, February 17, 1941 – May 15, 1941
- File 5 *S.S. Master* logbook, May 17, 1941 – August 2, 1941
- File 6 *S.S. Master* logbook, August 2, 1941 – November 5, 1941
- File 7 *S.S. Master* logbook, November 6, 1941 – February 7, 1942
- File 8 *S.S. Master* logbook, February 7, 1942 – May 6, 1942
- File 9 *S.S. Master* logbook, May 6, 1942 – July 22, 1942
- File 10 *S.S. Master* logbook, July 22, 1942 – October 30, 1942
- File 11 *S.S. Master* logbook, October 30, 1942 – September 10, 1944

Box 4

Series 7 – S.S. Master logbooks

- File 12 *S.S. Master* logbook, September 11, 1944 – December 9, 1944
- File 13 *S.S. Master* logbook, February 2, 1946 – April 11, 1946
- File 14 *S.S. Master* logbook, April 12, 1946 – July 9, 1946
- File 15 *S.S. Master* logbook, July 10, 1946 – September 5, 1946
- File 16 *S.S. Master* logbook, September 6, 1946 – November 28, 1946
- File 17 *S.S. Master* logbook, November 28, 1946 – March 1, 1947
- File 18 *S.S. Master* logbook, March 2, 1947 – May 13, 1947
- File 19 *S.S. Master* logbook, May 14, 1947 – July 27, 1947
- File 20 *S.S. Master* logbook, July 28, 1947 – October 19, 1947
- File 21 *S.S. Master* logbook, October 19, 1947 – January 6, 1948
- File 22 “Unknown ship” logbook, April 19, 1934 – August 1, 1934

Box 5

Series 7 – S.S. Master logbooks

- File 23 *S.S. Master* logbook, January 7, 1948 – April 13, 1948
- File 24 *S.S. Master* logbook, April 13, 1948 – June 25, 1948
- File 25 *S.S. Master* logbook, June 27, 1948 – September 14, 1948
- File 26 *S.S. Master* logbook, September 15, 1948 – December 4, 1948
- File 27 *S.S. Master* logbook, December 6, 1948 – March 23, 1949
- File 28 *S.S. Master* logbook, March 23, 1949 – June 17, 1949
- File 29 *S.S. Master* logbook, June 17, 1949 – September 7, 1949
- File 30 *S.S. Master* logbook, December 27, 1949 – April 12, 1950
- File 31 *S.S. Master* logbook, April 12, 1950 – July 7, 1950
- File 32 *S.S. Master* logbook, July 7, 1950 – September 30, 1950
- File 33 *S.S. Master* logbook, October 1, 1950 – January 5, 1951
- File 34 *S.S. Master* logbook, January 5, 1951 – April 14, 1951

Box 6

Series 7 – S.S. Master logbooks

- File 35 *S.S. Master* logbook, July 13, 1951 – October 9, 1951
- File 36 *S.S. Master* logbook, April 1, 1952 – June 24, 1952
- File 37 *S.S. Master* logbook, November 29, 1954 – March 17, 1955
- File 38 *S.S. Master* logbook, March 17, 1955 – June 29, 1955

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Box 6

Series 7 – S.S. Master logbooks

- File 39 *S.S. Master* logbook, June 29, 1955 – October 4, 1955
- File 40 *S.S. Master* logbook, October 4, 1955 – January 11, 1956
- File 41 *S.S. Master* logbook, January 12, 1956 – June 16, 1956
- File 42 *S.S. Master* logbook, June 19, 1956 – November 17, 1956
- File 43 *S.S. Master* logbook, November 19, 1956 – June 19, 1957
- File 44 *S.S. Master* logbook, June 19, 1957 – March 14, 1958
- File 45 *S.S. Master* logbook, April 8, 1958 – July 31, 1959
- File 46 *S.S. Master* radio log, May 9, 1955 – June 18, 1959
- File 47 *Moonlight* logbook, October 4, 1939 – January 22, 1940