

first draft

Maine Maritime Academy at Castine will become the home of the Allie Ryan Marine Historical Collection, under arrangements completed this week between the Brooksville collector and Admiral E. A. Rogers, superintendent of the academy.

The collection is the product of Ryan's life-long interest in and enthusiasm for everything reminiscent of the great days of the sailboats and steamboats on the Penobscot and other New England waters. It includes more than 60,000 separate items. There are paintings, photographs, posters, ship models, sailing schedules, steamboat tickets, whistles, bells, logs, compasses, anchors, figureheads, sailing gear, and almost anything you can think of that has an association with the sea around us. There is also a substantial library of books on sailing and steamboating.

What began as a casual interest for the Brooksville collector and historian grew to become his central purpose, and he spent an increasing amount of his time searching the coastal area of Maine for relevant material. His collection has remained a personal and private endeavor for which he has had no public support, and one which produced little income for him except some returns derived from disposing of duplicate items in his collection. But the sale or exchange of pieces in his collection usually led to additions and replacements and not to any profit.

Most of the collection is now housed at Ryan's Brooksville home. Two substantial portions of it are on display at Bangor and at the Blue Hill Library. The Bangor display at the historical museum includes many ship models, including the model of the steamer Penobscot, and some Currier and Ives prints.

According to Admiral Rogers, the Maritime Academy plans to maintain an exhibit of segments of the collection in the school store quarters at the Baron Castine Building, when the store is moved to the newly constructed dormitory. Work space is being made available where a curator and assistants will work on devising a catalog^{ue} of the collection. As different sections of the collection are catalogued, they will appear sequentially in the exhibit room at Baron Castine Hall. When the work of organizing the exhibits has been completed a central exhibition of the entire collection will be presented at the new gymnasium, for an initial public showing. Thereafter, portions of the collection will be shown at lounges and waiting rooms and corridors of the campus buildings, while work continues on putting the collection into final form.

Both Admiral Rogers and Mr. Ryan would like to see the collection kept together and ultimately housed in a single structure, perhaps in the one remaining building on the Academy's construction program, now scheduled to contain the library and a small auditorium.

Administrative control of the collection will be lodged in a group of trustees who will be named shortly. They will, in turn, select a curator who will direct the cataloging of the collection, with the assistance of student groups, including the newly formed SHIPS (Seagoing Historians of International Ports

and Shipping).

Allie Ryan, after conferring with Admiral Rogers on Monday, said he was very pleased to find a suitable home for the collection on which he has spent much of his time for more than 25 years. He said he had been given many opportunities to dispose of the collection, or pieces of it, to institutions in other parts of the country. He had felt, however, that it ought to stay in Maine, in the vicinity of the sailing, shipping and steamboating operations of the last century around which it has been built, and that it ought to remain intact. He thought the Academy's plans for the collection was the only one available with the promise of achieving both these objectives.

Admiral Rogers, who has discussed the collection with Mr. Ryan several times in the past few years, said he was very pleased at the prospect of having at the Academy a collection so intimately related to the maritime history of the region, and so filled with items of interest and information for the students of the Academy. The Admiral said the collection will be shown and exhibited at the Academy as the Allie Ryan Marine Historical Collection.

Collector Ryan ~~plans to~~ ^{plans to} spend part of his time ~~xxxxx~~ assisting the curator of the collection. It is the plan of the Academy to draw upon his expertise in cataloguing and arranging the material and to utilize oral history techniques to record Ryan's recollection of the background of items in the collection.

(4) Allie Ryan

Admiral Rogers said that an annual budget of \$25,000 is going to be required to organize the collection, provide for its exhibits, and maintain security, and that these funds will have to come from interested citizens and sources outside the regular budget of the Maritime Academy. He expressed confidence in the desire of Maine residents to provide for the collection. Interested citizens are urged to send contributions to the Allie Ryan Marine Historical Collection, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, Maine..

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