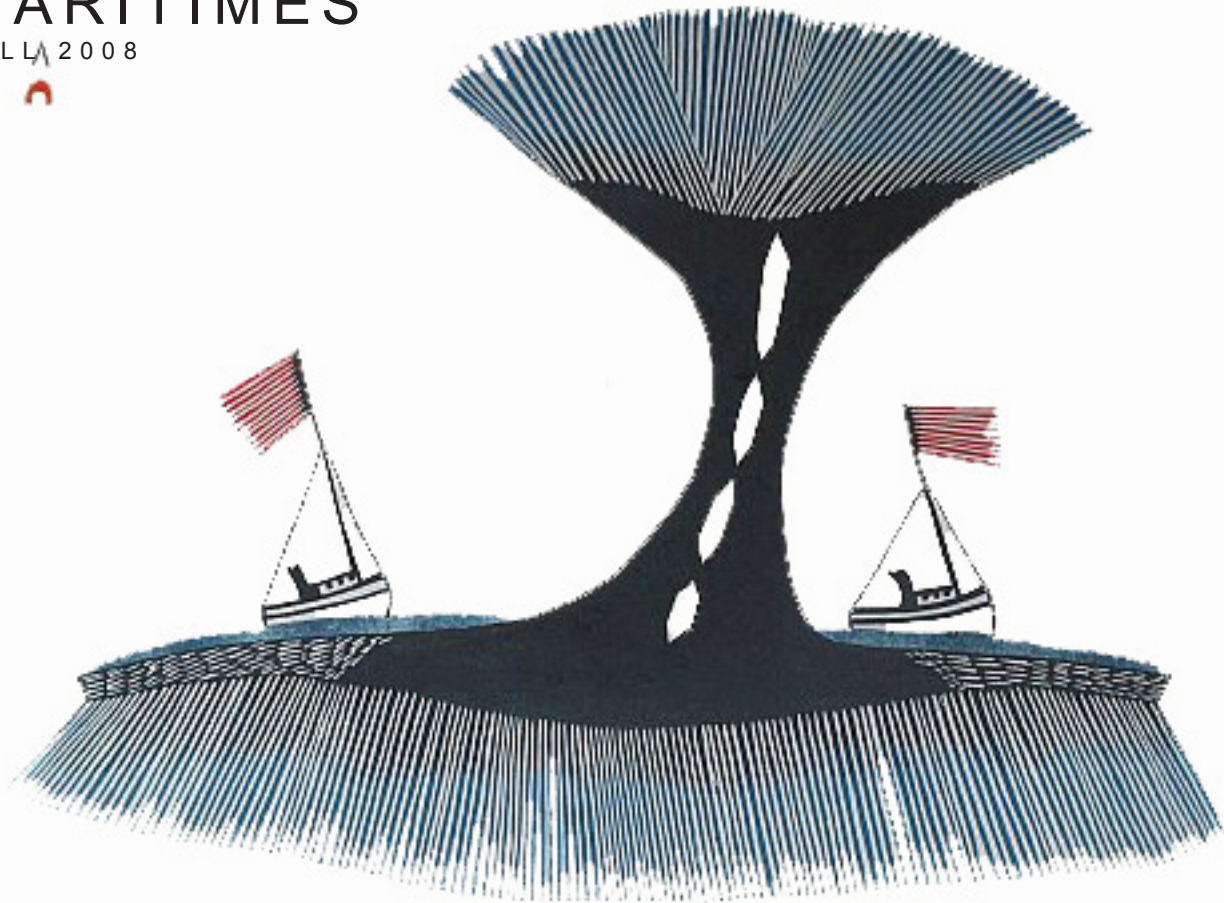


custom house

MARITIMES

FALL 2008



INUIT PRINTS - THE ARCTIC'S PULL

September 13 through November 10, 2008

Two exhibitions recalling the mystery of the far north open at the Custom House Maritime Museum on September 13. In the Custom House Maritime Gallery, **Inuit Prints with Maritime Themes** from the collection of James and Alice Houston will display some 20+ images of whales, boats, hunters, seals, walruses, and narwhales. The vibrant prints were made by skin stencil, stonecut, engraving and lithograph. In the Custom House West Gallery, a related exhibition, **The Arctic's Pull: New London's Long History with the North**, organized by the Custom House Maritime Museum in partnership with the New London County Historical Society and Mystic Seaport, will examine three facets of that history: Arctic whaling, the exploration of the north, and New London's ties with the Inuit people. Artifacts include a walrus skull, a scale model of the *Polaris*, whaling harpoons, and photos of early 20th-century Inuit visitors to New London.

An **opening reception** for both exhibitions takes place **Saturday, September 13, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm**. The reception is free and open to the public.

September & October's **Third Thursday lectures** develop the Arctic theme. See inside for details.

Above: *A Whaler's Dream*, Pudlo, Cape Dorset, Nunavut Territory, stonecut and stencil, 1987. Pudlo was the first Inuit artist to have a one-man show at the National Gallery of Canada. Right: *Three Walrus*, Sheowak, Cape Dorset, Nunavut Territory, skin stencil, 1960.

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

related events

SEPTEMBER

13 Opening
Inuit / Arctic

18 Third Thursday
Alice Houston

OCTOBER

16 Third Thursday
Fred Calabretta



From the PRESIDENT

It is evident to many with whom I have spoken recently that the Maritime Museum has taken noticeably impressive steps to become a legitimate center for history, art and community events. Under the able leadership of our new director, Susan, we have witnessed exciting programs which have highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of local individuals, families, organizations and commercial concerns. The fall programs promise to be no less interesting and rewarding. Please spread the word and try to visit often.

This is also the time of great optimism as we move into phase two of our year-long celebration of the Maritime Society and the U.S. Custom House itself. A major focus will now be on soliciting contributions and support for the operations and programs at the museum via the special **2008 Lucille Showalter Anniversary Fund**. We ask your help in reaching out to your personal, professional and corporate contacts for significant financial support to sustain our vitality as an institution and to enable us to continue to make significant and collaborative contributions to New London and its regional communities. Stay tuned for the special mailing.

As always, I invite you to interest someone new to the museum. Better yet, consider bringing in a new member or renewing your own. May you have gentle seas and fair winds. Greg Roth, *Past President*



Thank you all for helping the New London Maritime Society welcome AMISTAD America, Inc. to the Custom House on July 10, 2008. Workshops reached more than 150 New London school children. Shown above is NLMS trustee Lonnie Braxton, II, with *Estrellas* of Norwich greeting the crowd at the Custom House pier. Our members' reception brought out a standing-room only audience for Gregory Belanger and William Pinkney of AMISTAD America, historian Sally Ryan, and singer Diana Fripp of Young Audiences Connecticut. Special thanks goes to Cross Sound Ferry, Inc. the reception's primary sponsor.

We'd like to recognize *all* our 2008 education partners: AMISTAD America, the City of New London, Kente, Mystic Seaport, New London County Historical Society, New London Landmarks, New London Main Street, and New London Public Schools. Only by working together will we succeed! Susan Tamulevich, *Director*

EDUCATION & COLLECTIONS

The education department is hard at work getting ready for the fall season, and new school programs have just been designed: "New London's Maritime Past," "The Amistad," and "Little Toot" are available for interested teachers and groups; in conjunction with upcoming exhibits: "The Arctic's Pull" (Sept-Nov, 2008) and "Starr Street" (April-May, 2009). Call the Custom House if you are interested in receiving brochures. In November, be on the look out for an open kid's program, grades: K-3, building wooden *Little Toots*, in conjunction with Hardie Gramatky's exhibit. To end out the season don't forget to bring the kids down to this year's *Lights & Song*. On December 6th, for the 3rd year they can enjoy making nautical Christmas ornaments. *Lights & Song* will be my last event as the educator for the New London Maritime Society. After over 2 amazing years here at the Custom House I will be leaving in December as my husband and I welcome our first child. Thank you to all those who helped me make our educational programs phenomenal.

The collection department is moving forward with preparing a permanent storage room. Cataloging and organization is already underway. Just some of the recent additions to the collection include a scrimshaw tooth donated by Capt. James Heydenreich, USCG (retired); Jibboom Club membership receipts donated by Bernard Skrupksy, Jr.; and an Ellery Thompson painting donated by Robert Stewart. Thank you to all who contribute to our ever growing collection. Cassie Libardi, *Museum Educator*



Tugboats & Little Toot: The Paintings and Illustrations of Hardie Gramatky will be on display in the Custom House Maritime Gallery November 15 through December 23, 2008.

FALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

13 Opening 6:30 to 8:00 PM. A reception for **Inuit Prints** from the collection of James & Alice Houston and **The Arctic's Pull: New London's Long History with the North**, an exhibition developed in partnership with Mystic Seaport and the New London County Historical Society.

15 Welcome Back 4:00 to 6:00 PM. NLMS members are invited back to see the Custom House, meet the new director, and hear about our plans for the future.

18 Third Thursday 6:30 to 8:00 PM. **Alice Houston** speaks about **Inuit Prints** and her own personal relationship with the people of the North. In the 1950s, Ms Houston's late husband, the artist James Houston, worked as a Canadian governmental administrator for Southwest Baffin Island. James Houston, a Stonington resident who died in 2005, is credited with giving the Inuit some of their first pencils and paper, and teaching them printmaking techniques. The Houstons maintained strong friendships with the Inuit over the years and collected prints for five decades. In addition to the talk, two short films made by James Houston illustrating Inuit life and art will be shown. Tickets cost \$5 each but are free to members of the New London Maritime Society.

OCTOBER

16 Third Thursday 6:30 to 8:00 PM. **Fred Calabretta**, the Curator of Collections and Oral Historian at Mystic Seaport will discuss **New London in the Arctic: Whaling, Exploration and Adventure**. In 1846, the bark *McLellan* sailed from New London, bound for the Davis Strait whaling grounds, an expanse of frigid ocean separating Baffin Island and Greenland. This voyage marked the renewal of American whaling in the Eastern Arctic for the first time since the eighteenth century. It also established an important interrelationship between the New London whaling industry and Arctic exploration. Over the next 70 years, men and ships from New London's whaling fleet would be extensively involved in Arctic exploration. With one of the earth's most inhospitable regions serving as a stage, they would play key roles in a series of dramatic adventures. Mr. Calabretta wrote the text for the exhibition, **The Arctic's Pull: New London's Long History with the North**. He also served as curator or co-curator for several Mystic Seaport exhibitions, most recently **Frozen In: Captain George Comer and the Hudson Bay Inuit**, which reflects Fred's long-standing interest in Eastern Arctic whaling and exploration. Tickets cost \$5 each but are free to members of the New London Maritime Society.

NOVEMBER - NLMS members will receive a card with our complete holiday program schedule in early November.

8 Robert Mills Symposium. All-day series of talks & discussions celebrating the 175th anniversary of the 1833 Custom House and its architect Robert Mills. Robert Mills, this country's first federal architect, is best-known for his design for the national Washington Monument. Organized by the Custom House Maritime Museum in partnership with New London Landmarks, the symposium will discuss historic preservation, including the saving of the Custom House 25 years ago. Architectural historian John Bryan will be the featured speaker. There is a fee and pre-registration is required. Visit www.nlmaritimesociety for details.

9 Annual Meeting 3:00 to 6:00 PM. The featured speaker is the architectural historian John Bryan, author of *Robert Mills: The Nation's First Federal Architect*. A new exhibition on the building of the Custom House will be on view.

15 Opening 6:30 to 8:00 PM. A reception for two holiday exhibitions: **Tugboats & Little Toot: The Paintings and Illustrations of Hardie Gramatky**, in the Maritime Gallery, and **Thames River Shipyard/Thames Tow Boat Company** in the West Gallery. The Thames Shipyard has been a staple on New London's waterfront since the late 19th Century. Our exhibition includes 4 large half hull models including those of the Nathan Hale and B.M. Thomas, black and white photos of Miles Standish, Paul Jones, Bess, and F.H. Chappell. November 15 through December 23, 2008. Ship models by **Robert Stewart** will be on view in the Frank McGuire Maritime Research Library.

20 Third Thursday 6:30 to 8:00 PM. **New London's Tugs.** Tickets cost \$5 each but are free to New London Maritime Society members.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

renewal _____ new _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

New London Maritime Society
150 Bank Street
New London, CT 06320
Phone: (860) 447-2501
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

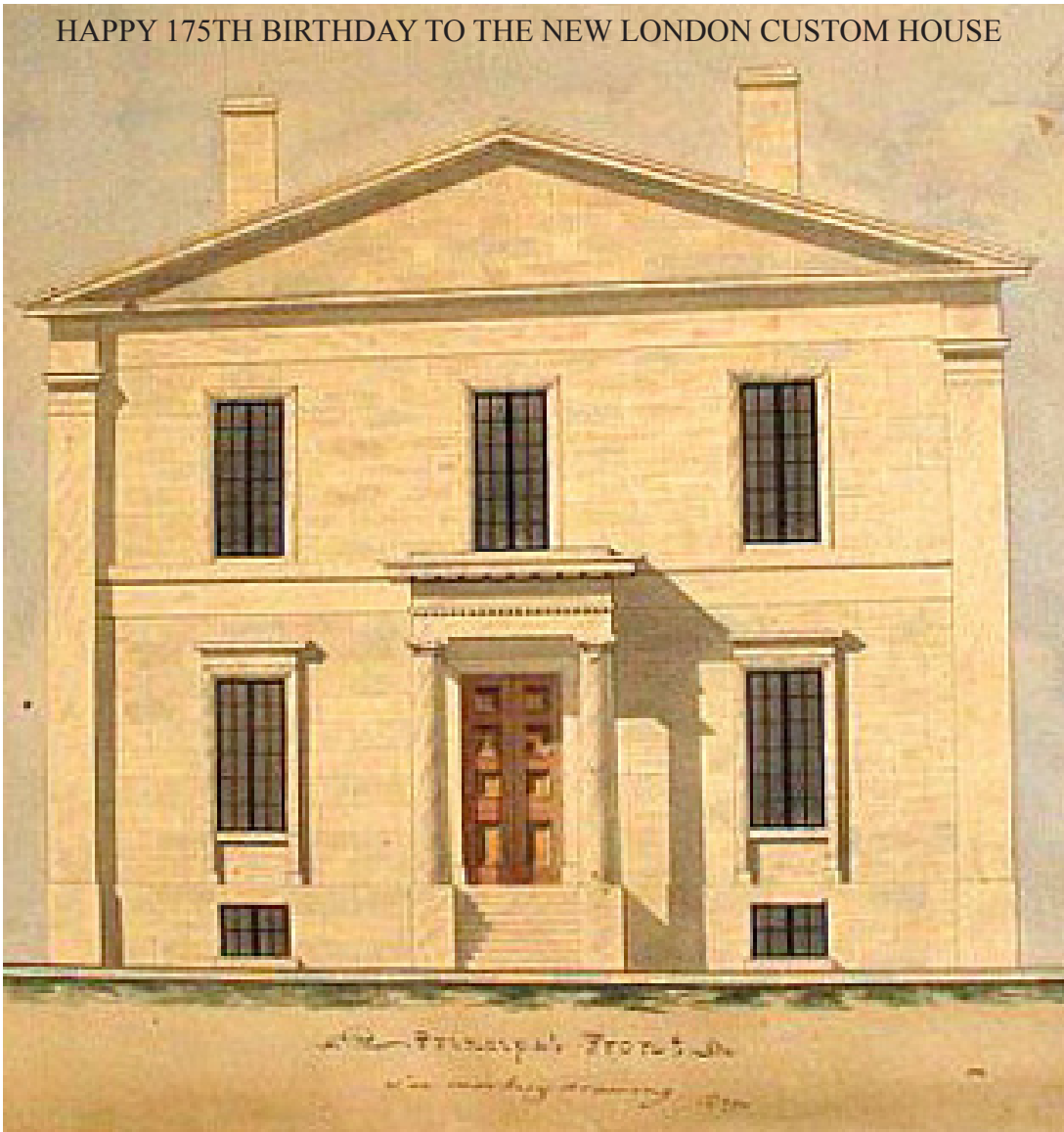
**Call for corp. member benefits

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

Card Number: _____

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

HAPPY 175TH BIRTHDAY TO THE NEW LONDON CUSTOM HOUSE



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Doug Hamill
Dorothy Leib
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Bud & Diane McAllister
Warren Sturgeon
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Come, celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Custom House: join us Saturday, November 8, for a **Robert Mills Symposium**, attend the **NLMS Annual Meeting** on November 9 and hear architectural historian John Bryan speak about the architect Robert Mills, & visit our new exhibition on **The Building of the New London Custom House**, which opens November 8.

New London Maritime Society
Custom House Maritime Museum

150 Bank Street

New London, Connecticut 06320

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