



## A NAVAL ARCHITECT'S LEGACY: EDWIN MONK SR.'S SHIP PLANS ARE ACCEPTED BY PSMHS | By John Kelly

Through the generosity of Edwin Monk Jr. of Bainbridge Island, the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society has officially accepted the entire collection of his father's drawings. This collection represents a naval architectural career of nearly fifty years. Wide ranging in size and scope, his vessels were designed for both pleasure and commercial clients and became familiar to mariners all along the Pacific Coast.

Edwin Monk Sr. began as a shipbuilding apprentice in 1914, working with his father who was a shipwright in the Puget Sound

area. Ultimately, while working at the Blanchard Boatyard on Lake Union, Monk had the opportunity to meet the legendary naval architect Ted Geary. In 1926 Geary hired him as a draftsman and shortly thereafter, when Geary decided to move closer to lucrative prospects in California, Monk joined him there. Around 1934, Monk returned to the Pacific Northwest and designed the 50' NAN, which he then built, lived aboard at the Seattle Yacht Club, and used as his office. He moved his workspace into a small corner of the Grandy Boat Company in

1940, then later to an office at the Marina Mart on Westlake.

In 1947, Monk was joined by fellow naval architect Lorne Garden and moved to the National Building near Colman Dock. This was convenient for his daily commute to and from his Port Madison home, which was tucked in the shore of Hidden Cove on Bainbridge Island. He moored a succession of ten personal "cruisers" in his boathouse there. After an illustrious career, Monk died in 1973 at the age of 79.

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## Edwin Monk, continued from cover

The Monk Ship Plans Collection includes over 2,000 individual vessel designs, which have been cataloged according to client, boat type, length, year and name. PSMHS has assumed responsibility for preservation and care of these valuable assets and is now ready to accept research inquiries. To make an inquiry, please

visit our website ([www.pugetmaritime.org](http://www.pugetmaritime.org)) and fill out the "Research Inquiry Form" found on the Resources page. You may email your request to [research@pugetmaritime.org](mailto:research@pugetmaritime.org).

Sincere appreciation is extended to Edwin Monk Jr. for making this treasure available to posterity.

## About the Edwin Monk Donation

In addition to the invaluable collection of ship plans donated by Edwin Monk, Jr., we have also been given several of Edwin Monk, Sr.'s half hull ship models, his drafting curves, and his shop sign. We are also in the process of acquiring Mr. Monk's photographic collection, which chronicles the ships of his design as they were under construction and completed.

The completeness and significance of this collection is both rare and greatly appreciated. We thank Edwin Monk, Jr. for his willingness to share these treasures with PSMHS and look forward to ensuring that they are cared for and made available to researchers in perpetuity!



## CONGRATULATIONS!

The Independent Publishers Association recently held their annual meeting in New York to select the winners of the 2014 Benjamin Franklin Awards. 4,000 books were entered in the competition and 275 of them were given awards. Drawing on Our History, Fishing Vessels of the

Pacific Northwest and Alaska, written and illustrated by PSMHS past president and Honorary Life Member, Jim Cole, was given the silver medal in the Transportation category. The Benjamin Franklin Awards are national awards.