

Ratsey & Lapthorn Sail Plan Collection

&

Flat Files Index

IYRS
Maritime Library

Ratsey & Lapthorn Sail Plan Collection

Overview and Finding Aid

The Ratsey & Lapthorn Sail Plan Collection is housed in 21 of the 30 flat file drawers, and is arranged based on yacht designer and year of design.

Ratsey & Lapthorn established their sailmaking operation in City Island, NY, in the early years of the twentieth century and continued in business until 1982. The earliest plans in the collection are pencil on paper, drawn by an R&L employee. Blueprints begin to appear in the collection in the late 1920s, and they are the predominant type of plan in the collection. The cyanotype (blue) process was used until the 1950s/60s when the diazo process took over, and the images then become dark lines on a white background.

The majority of the plans have pencil annotations on them made by various R&L employees. These can include the date when the plan was received, notes about the sails, as well as R&L drawer and file location notes. A very small number of plans have pencil notations by the designer. From the late 1940s onward the plans also have a circular ink date stamp on the reverse, indicating when they were received.

The plans are only grouped together when there is a substantial number of plans by the same designer. In the flat file drawers marked "Various" there are plans by a wide range of currently less-well-known designers, and these are not in any specific order.

- Plans by John Alden, Philip Rhodes, and Sparkman and Stephens are in the drawers on the left.
- Plans for dinghies, scows, cat boats, and other small craft are in the drawers in the center.
- Plans for other designers are grouped alphabetically in the drawers on the right.

A list of the contents of the folders in the individual drawers, as well as an index of designers, is on the following pages. Detailed lists for certain designers can be found on the library's website.

LEFT-HAND DRAWERS

1. Index
   Nathanael Herreshoff. *Vigilant*
   Sparkman and Stephens. *Bolero*
   Early R&L plans
   R&L handwritten lists

2. John Alden
   1920s
   1930s A
   1930s B

3. John Alden
   1930s C
   1930s D
   1940s A

4. John Alden
   1940s B
   1950s
   1960s
   1970s

5. Philip Rhodes
   1920s
   1930s
   1940s
   1950s
   1960s & 70s
   Cox & Stevens, pre. Rhodes

6. Sparkman & Stephens
   1930s
   1940s
   1950s A
   1950s B

7. Sparkman & Stephens

1950s C
1950s D
1960s
1970s

8. Various

9. Various

10. Various

CENTER DRAWERS

numbered from the top down

1. Scows
   Johnson Boat Works
   Class E: Jones & La Bokof, etc.
   Class C: Amundsen, Ramaley, Parker, etc.

   Local One Designs
   Candy Class
   Fisher's Island
   Warwick Neck

2. Small Boats A
   John Alden
   B.B. Crowninshield
   William Gardner
   Luders
   Charles Mower
   Wirth Munroe
   Nunes Brothers
   Philp Rhodes (Cox & Stevens)
   Francis Sweisguth

3. Small Boats B
   Barnegat Sneak Box (one design)
   Beetle Cat / Dyer / Herreshoff 12 ½
   Canoes, Sailing
   International 14s
   Massachusetts Bay 18 / Manchester18
   "Miscellaneous Type 3"
   National 12s

"Wee Scott"

4. Various: One Design, etc.

5. Various: One Design, etc.

RIGHT-HAND DRAWERS

1. A - G
   Carl Alberg
   Belknap/Burgess/Paine
   Casey Boat Building Co.
   Howard Chapelle
   Clinton Crane
   Sam Crocker
   William Crosby
   B.B. Crowninshield
   Sidney Davies
   German Freres

2. H - L
   William Hand
   Nathanael Herreshoff
   L. Francis Herreshoff
   Sidney Herreshoff / Halsey Herreshoff
   Walton Hubbard
   C. Raymond Hunt (& Concordia)
   International 14s
   Lawley
   Luders

3. M - N
   Al Mason
   Walter McInnis (Eldredge-McInnis)
   Charles Mower
   Wirth Munroe
   Henry Nevins
   K. Aage Nielsen
   Frederic S. Nock

4. O – Z
   George Owen
   Nicholas Potter
   E.B. Schock
   Francis Sweisguth

Tams
W.H. Tripp
John Trumpy

5. Various

6. Various

INDEX

Carl Alberg R1

John Alden L2, L3, L4, C2

Amundsen (scows) C1

"Baccarat" .....Room, Archival Box

Barnegat Sneak Box (one design) C3

Beetle Cat C3

Belknap/Burgess/Paine R1

Candy Class C1

Canoes, Sailing C3

Howard Chapelle R1

Concordia R2

Clinton Crane R1

Sam Crocker R1

William Crosby R1

B.B. Crowninshield C2, R1

Sidney Davies R1

Dyer C3

Eldredge-McInnis R3

Fisher's Island (one design) C1

William Gardner C2

German Freres R1

William Hand R2

Herreshoff L1, C3, R2

Walton Hubbard R2

C. Raymond Hunt R2

International 14s C3, R2

Johnson Boat Works C1
Jones & LaBokof C1
Lawley R2
Luders C2, R2
Manchester 18 ..... C3
Al Mason R3
Massachusetts Bay 18 ..... C3
"Miscellaneous Type 3" C3
Charles Mower C2, R3
Wirth Munroe C2, R3
National 12s C3
Henry Nevins R3
K. Aage Nielsen R3
Frederic S. Nock R3
Nunes Brothers C2
George Owen R4
Frank Paine (Burgess, Belknap) C2, R1
Parker (scows) C1
Nicholas Potter R4
Ramaley (scows) C1
Philip Rhodes (Cox & Stevens) L5, C2
E.B. Schock R4
Sparkman & Stephens L6, L7, C2
Francis Sweisguth C2, R4
Tams R4
"Thunderhead" ..... Storage Room, Archival Box
W.H. Tripp R4

John Trumpy R4

Warwick Neck C1
"Wee Scott" C3

Other Plans in the Flat Files
(not Ratsey & Lapthorn)

CENTER DRAWERS
numbered from the top down

6. Sail & Lines plans
   Candy Class
   Optimist construction plans
   R.H. Baker sail plans (O'Day Collection)
   "Yvonne II" (1920s power)

RIGHT-HAND DRAWERS
numbered from the top down

7. Power
   Cox & Stevens
   Henry Gielow
   Luders Marine
   Tams
   John H. Wells
   Construction plans, miscellaneous
   Model plans

8. Frederick Huntington Collection
   (1930s & 40s, Burgess, S&S, etc.)

9. Construction plans
   Edward S. Brewer, construction plans
   Eldredge-McInnis, power boat plans
   Andrew Hepburn, lines plans
   Dick Newick plans (Phil Weld Collection)
   Frederic S. Nock, ink construction plans
   Sparkman & Stevens, *Constellation* construction plans
   Schooner *Ernestina*, construction plans
   Engineering blueprint plans

John Mecray prints

10. Construction plans, etc.
Camper & Nicholson, construction plans (1960s on)
Sparkman & Stephens, construction plans (1960s on)
Posters

https://iyrslibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/RATSEY-LAPTHORN-COLLECTION-LIST-INDEX-edit.pdf