



Henry Meade Williams Local History Department

PO Box 800, Mission St. & 6th Ave, Carmel CA, 93921

831-624-1615 hml.localhist@gmail.com

G36 - Ernest Gann Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

- Title: Ernest Gann Collection
- Number: G36
- Creator: Ernest Gann
- Format/Extent: CP: 1 box
- Span Dates: August 1955 – September 1955
- Repository: Henry Meade Williams Local History Room
- Physical Location: Vault: CP
- Donor: Steven Gann; Mary Louise Schneeberger; Betty Jane Yates
- Accessions: 94-1; 1995-017; 1997-001
- Related Collections:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Ernest Kellogg Gann (1910-1991) was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 13, 1910. He lived in St. Paul, Minnesota as a child, graduated magna cum laude from Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana, and attended the Yale School of Drama. He later held a variety of jobs – general manager of Broadway plays, commercial fisherman, cartoonist, commercial pilot, barnstormer pilot, newsreel cameraman, and eventually author and screenwriter. Mr. Gann's first novel, *Island in the Sky*, was published in 1940, and those that followed dealt with flying, sailing, or adventurous historical themes, many of them translated into successful movies and a television miniseries.

In 1954, Gann purchased his 16th boat, the *Albatros*, a 117 ft metal schooner in Rotterdam, Netherlands. *Albatros* had been a pilot boat in the North Sea, a radio station ship for the Germans in World War II, and finally as a Dutch cadet training vessel. Along with his family and a few friends he sailed the boat across the Atlantic Ocean, through the Panama Canal to the San Francisco Bay. *Albatros* was put through a major overhaul and converted to a square-sailed brigantine. Gann then sailed it around the South Pacific over the next three years. He later leased the ship to a movie company to be used as the major prop in a movie based upon his book *Twilight for the Gods*. Soon after the production ended, *Albatros* was sold and became a school vessel. It was later lost in the Gulf of Mexico. The sinking of the boat is the topic of a 1996 movie named *White Squall* starring Jeff Bridges. He lived in Pebble Beach until 1965, until he moved to the San Juan Islands in Washington State, eventually passing away in 1991.



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SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains black and white photographs, Albatros ship blueprints, and copies of Albatros ship logs.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access: Materials are open for research.

Copyright Information: The Henry Meade Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library does not hold copyright to these items. Permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder by the user.

Preferred Citation: Ernest Gann Collection, Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel, CA

Arrangement Notes:

Updates: Revised 7/1/2013, Inventoried 4/8/2022. Edited and checked against physical holdings by Michael Martinus 10/2025.

INVENTORY

Collected Papers

- Box 1
 - Folder 1: "The Cruise of the Albatros" – photos and title page from George Yates' Scrapbook
 - Scanned title page for *The Cruise of the "Albatross": Rotterdam to Curacao August 1, 1955 - September 13, 1955* scrapbook
 - Scanned image of The Albatross ship
 - 1. B&W photo of Ernest K. Gann, skipper (1955?)
 - 2. B&W photo of Cora Grootes, the ship's agent (1955?)
 - 3. B&W photo of George Yates (1955?)
 - 4. B&W photo of Richard Still and Pete Stove (1955?)
 - 5. Duplicate of 4 (1955?)
 - 6. B&W photo of Steve Gann (1955?)
 - 7. B&W photo of Warren Johnston (1955?)



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■ 8. Duplicate of 7 (1955?)

- Folder 2: "The Albatros" ship's log scans (Aug. 12-31, 1956)
- Folder 3: Scans of George Yates' log (1955)
- Folder 4: Scans of Richard Still's log and crew list (Jul. 21 - Sept. 9, 1955)
- Folder 5: 2 plans for the Albatross schooner (1921 & Apr. 19, 1949)

SUBJECTS

<p><u>People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Gann, Ernest K., 1910-1991● Gann, Steven● Grootes, Cora● Johnston, Warren, 1920-1994● Still, Richard M., 1909-1982● Stove, Pete● Yates, George V., 1916-1996 <p><u>Genre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Photographs● Ship logs● Blueprints● Scrapbooks	<p><u>Topics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boats and boating● Sailing● Ships● Seafaring <p><u>Geographic Coverage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Atlantic Ocean● Panama Canal (Panama)● San Francisco, Calif.● Curacao● Rotterdam, Netherlands
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