

# Maritime Miniatures: The Art of the Ship Model

## Spring 2022

The Detroit Historical Society has a world-class collection of Great Lakes ship models, representing over 300 years of North American freshwater maritime history. During this exhibition, you can see over 150 of our models shown together for the first time in more than 20 years! Some of the models have been enjoyed by visitors for decades, dating back to when the city's maritime museum first opened aboard the *J.T. Wing*. Some are rarely seen due to their age, size or condition.

Models are displayed in every gallery of the museum. Learn more about the types of models you will see and browse the full list of ship models on display in the following pages.

## SAVE OUR SHIP MODELS!

Ship models are pieces of both art and history. Each tell a tale that weaves the history of the ship that it represents together with the story of the creator of the model. The Detroit Historical Society's collection of more than 250,000 artifacts includes over 200 Great Lakes ship models. These models allow us to peek inside historic vessels in ways that no two-dimensional photograph ever could.

We hope to raise enough funding during *Maritime Miniatures: The Art of the Ship Model* to restore and conserve all of the remarkable models in this collection. An estimated 700 hours of work of specialized conservation care is needed, ranging from careful cleaning of delicate, decades-old woodwork, to reconstruction of models so old that they had begun to disintegrate before they even arrived in our collection.



Scan to donate and help us preserve these models – and the story of the Great Lakes. You may also give anytime at [detroithistorical.org](https://detroithistorical.org).

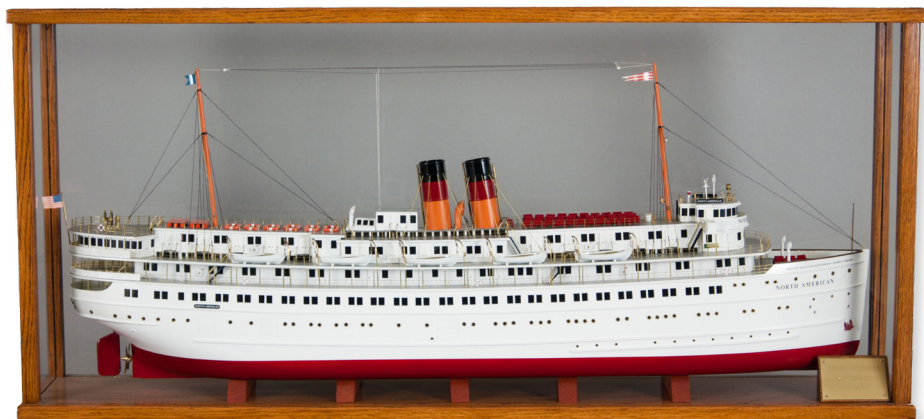


# Pleasure & Passenger Ship Models

Whether carrying guests all the way across the Great Lakes or just downriver, passenger ships primarily move people. Luxury liners like Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company ships provided elegant accommodations for trips that ranged from overnight cruises to multi-day voyages. The much-loved Bob-Lo boats carried passengers for just 80 minutes at a time, but made sure their trip was an entertaining one. Pleasure craft can be broadly defined, but enjoyment of the lakes and rivers is their main objective.

## MAYFLOWER

The *Mayflower* is the oldest ship model in the Detroit Historical Society's collection. Built in 1854 by James R. Cunningham, he entered the model into the 1854 Michigan State Fair – and took home a medal in recognition of his craftsmanship. The real *Mayflower* was a massive passenger steamship, operated by the Michigan Central Railroad between Detroit and Buffalo, New York from 1849-54. This model is old enough to have been made when the ship was still active. As a result, the intricate model provides us with an accurate picture of the ship, showing smokestacks and promenade deck among other details.



## NORTH & SOUTH AMERICAN

The story of the *North American* and the *South American* is a tale of two ships – in fact they are what's called near-sister ships, having an almost identical design. The luxurious passenger steamships from the Chicago, Duluth & Georgian Bay Transit Company launched in 1913 and 1914 and cruised between popular Great Lakes ports like Chicago, Buffalo, Mackinac Island and of course, Detroit. These ship models are both excellent examples of model craftsmanship, demonstrating an extreme level of detail. Both models are executed to almost the exact detail of their real-life counterparts.

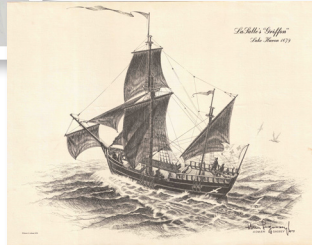
# Early Trade & Transport

Ships have navigated the Great Lakes for centuries — from canoes crafted by Indigenous people to modern bulk carriers designed by shipbuilding companies. Early sailing vessels were tasked with exploration and trade, and later, commerce and transport between other settlements along the Great Lakes. Before steam power was used on ships, sails and oars propelled these crafts.



## LE GRIFFON

*Le Griffon* was one of the first sailing ships built on the Great Lakes. French Explorer La Salle's ship launched near Cayuga Island on the Niagara River. But the ship, which made its maiden voyage through lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan in 1679, vanished on the return trip. Because the ship was never recovered, and no plans were ever found for the ship's construction, this model is an estimated replica based on other French ships that would have been sailing around the same time.



Pen and ink drawing "LaSalle's 'Griffon,' Lake Huron, 1679" by Homer LaGassey, 1978. Detroit Historical Society collection.



## EARLY CANOE/DUGOUT CANOE

People lived in the Great Lakes region, including the area which came to be known as Detroit, for thousands of years before French explorers like Antonine de la Mothe Cadillac arrived and claimed the land. These people, including members of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi would have trekked to river or lakefront villages during the spring and summer using handcrafted canoes for water travel. These models demonstrate a "dugout" canoe, hollowed out from a cut tree trunk, and a birch bark canoe, put together using bark over a frame. The bark canoe has patterns made of porcupine quills.

# Industrial Trade & Transport

With advances in shipbuilding and new routes opening up on the lakes, trade and travel on our waterways increased dramatically in the industrial age. Faster-moving ships with higher capacity meant that more could be moved, and Great Lakes shipping helped grow industry around the United States. Shipping vessels, like freighters, took over the waterways – transporting goods like iron ore, wheat, salt, copper, and lumber to be processed or sold. The current shipping economy on the lakes represents billions of dollars annually.



## WILFRED SYKES

The *Wilfred Sykes* was built by the American Shipbuilding Co. in Lorain, Ohio for Inland Steel in 1949 – the first Great Lakes ship built in the U.S. after World War II. This model of the *Sykes* was built for the Great Lakes Maritime Museum, precursor to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, by head curator Captain Joseph E. Johnston. Johnston spent hours defining the details on this ship model — the red, silver, white and blue stacks, upper decks with glass windows and realistic cranes to on-board freight.



## PERE MARQUETTE 10

This model displays several railcars aboard the *Pere Marquette 10*, which shuttled rail traffic from Detroit to Windsor, Ontario, and from Port Huron to Sarnia, Ontario. Model maker Clarence Kroll is responsible for the construction of this model that incorporates scale trains and a custom dock.



While the first and only naval battle fought on the Great Lakes was the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812, military and service vessels have been a fixture on the lakes since the time of European settlement. Beyond strictly martial ships, numerous crafts operated by the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard keep our shared waters safe. Service ships work to aid commercial or industrial ships – like freighters – and can include a wide range of vessels. In this exhibition, you will see examples of tugboats, fire boats and buoy tenders.



The *Yantic* anchor was recovered and donated to the museum in 1960 by the Koenig Coal and Supply Co. See it outside with the rest of our Outdoor Treasures!

### YANTIC

The *Yantic* was constructed for the U.S. Navy during the Civil War as a steam-powered, propeller-driven, wood-hulled gunboat, with auxiliary and sail rigging. After 1865, the warship served the Navy at stations around the world and recorded two circumnavigations. It was loaned to the State of Michigan in 1898 as a training platform for its naval militia, based in Detroit. In 1917, the *Yantic* was recommissioned by the Navy and served as a training ship on Lake Michigan. Returning to militia duty after WWI, the ship served as a naval ambassador, visiting ports around the lakes before sinking in the Detroit River in 1929.

This model was constructed during the 1930s by Otis Howards, a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves.



### JOHN KENDALL

A steam-powered vessel built by the Toledo Shipbuilding Company in 1929, the *John Kendall* was a fireboat operated by the Detroit Fire Department and named after Detroit Fire Department's third chief. The fireboat was 135 feet long and had a ten-person crew. The vessel boasted five deck-mounted firefighting guns that could pump 16,000 gallons of water a minute. After it was decommissioned in 1976, the ship's steam engines were converted to diesel, and it began a second life as a tugboat until the ship was scrapped in 1994.

## Racing Boat Models

From rowing to long-distance sailing, the thrill of competition is alive on the Great Lakes! Boat racing became popular in the late 1880s as engine technology advanced and would hit its peak popularity in 1920s with a variety of racing boats that could achieve staggering speeds. Gas-powered hydroplanes, characterized by a hull shape which lifts them out of the water at high speeds, originated in this era.

### MISS AMERICA X

Gar Woods was a prolific racing boat designer and racer, crafting some of the fastest boats on the Detroit River, including *Miss America X*. This model is one of three *Miss America X* models in the Society's collection. It demonstrates the artistry used to create the real ship – a sleek wooden hull housing four iconic Packard V12 engines. In the model, you can see those Packard engines exposed. They allowed *Miss America X* to set the record as the first speedboat in history to reach a speed of more than 2 miles per minute.



### Half-Hull Models

“Half-hull models” or just “half-models” have a practical purpose beyond wall decoration. Before the days of computer-aided design software, shipwrights used these highly detailed models as guides for building a ship’s hull. The contours of the scaled-down model would match the hull lines to be recreated on the actual ship. Since the final product is symmetrical, only one half is needed, making it easy for these models to be hung and appreciated as art.



### SAINT IGNACE

The Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Co. (D&C) operated several passenger steamers that ferried travelers around the Great Lakes. This half-model represents the *City of St. Ignace*, which was formerly known as the *City of Cleveland* until 1907. This model hung in the D&C waiting room, along with other models from the same line. The real ship was later sold and renamed *Keystone* in 1929.

Some models are destined to take to the water! The technical challenge of building a model ship is heightened by making it able to float and including a way to propel it. Pond model sailboats were popular on Belle Isle, and newer remote-controlled models can be steered more precisely than ever before. What could be more satisfying than watching your own maritime miniature set sail?

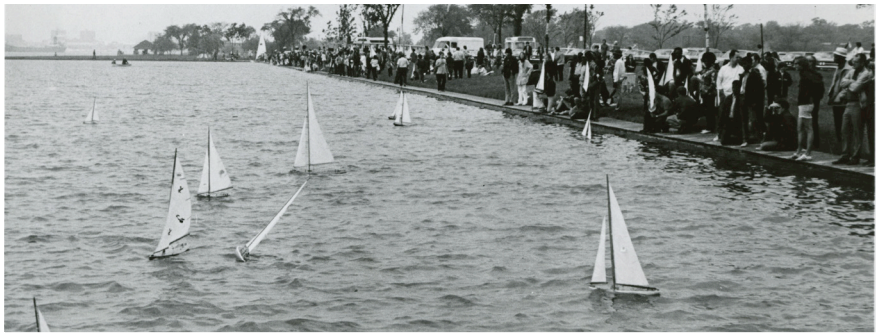


The *J.T. Wing* was the home of Detroit's first maritime museum, shown in this 1948 photo. Detroit Historical Society collection.

## JUDITH LEE

The *Judith Lee* model was created in the 1960s, loosely based on plans of the *J.T. Wing*, the schooner that housed the first iteration of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. The *Judith Lee* is rigged as a barkentine, however, meaning that it has three or more masts with a square-rigged foremast, whereas the *Wing* was rigged with almost triangular-shaped fore-and-aft sails.

It's amazing to think that this model was intended to sail in the water because of its impressive detail. The masts, booms, and bowsprit have all been lacquered or varnished and host intricate rigging and fittings, living up to its barkentine-inspired style.



Model Yacht Basin on Belle Isle, c. 1980. Detroit Historical Society collection.



# Alphabetical Ship Model List

**ET** – Early Trade & Transport

**FM** - Functional Model

**HH** – Half-Hull

**IT** – Industrial Trade & Transport

**MS** – Military & Service

**PS** – Pleasure & Passenger Ship

**RB** – Racing Boat

**O** - Other

*Alabama* – Builder Unknown **PS**

*Alpena* – John C. Harrison **IT**

*Alvin Clark* – Houghton Smith, Jr. **ET**

*Alvin Clark* cabin model – Ted McCutcheon, Jr. **ET**

*Ariel* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*Birch Bark Canoe* – Builder Unknown **ET**

*Bristol Bay* – Mark E. Redenbeaux **MS**

*Buda II* – Builder Unknown **FM**

*Cadillac* – Builder Unknown **IT**

*Caledonia* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*Cargo Vessel* Half-model – Builder Unknown **HH**

*Carolyn* pond model – Herbert & James Wright **FM**

*CG-173* – Harvey Nissley **MS**

*CG-184* – Harvey Nissley **MS**

*CG-2264* – Sam Buchanan **MS**

*CG-2342* – Sam Buchanan **MS**

*Challenge* – Emmett Priestly **ET**

*Champion* – Builder Unknown **IT**

*Chippewa* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*Christopher Columbus* – Builder Unknown **PS**

*City of Detroit II* Half-model – Detroit Dry Dock Co. **HH**

*City of Detroit III* – William Moss **PS**

*City of St. Ignace* Half-model – Detroit Dry Dock Co. **HH**

*Columbia* – Robert I. Schellig **PS**

*Corona* – B.M. Bigger **PS**

*D.W. Crow* Half-model – Builder Unknown **HH**

*David Dows* – C.T. McCutcheon **ET**

*Dearborn* – Builder Unknown **MS**

*Delphine IV* – Builder Unknown **RB**

*Detroit* – Commercial model **IT**

*Detroit* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*Dubuque* – Lt. Comm. Otis W. Howard **MS**

*Dugout Canoe* – Builder Unknown **ET**

*Duplex boiler steam pump* model – Builder Unknown **O**

*Eastern States/Western States* Half-model – Detroit Shipbuilding Co. **HH**

*Edmund Fitzgerald* – Richard Cozzens **IT**

*Edmund Fitzgerald* (wrecked) – Sam Buchanan **IT**

*Frank E. Kirby* half-model – Detroit Drydock Company **HH**

*Frank Rockefeller* – Builder Unknown **IT**

*Gasoline Lighter* Half-model – International Harvester Co. **HH**

*Gayle* pond model – Herbert & James Wright **FM**

*General Hunter* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*George F. Rand* – Builder Unknown **IT**

*GLEW Hull* Half-model – Great Lakes Engineering Works **HH**

*GLEW Shipbuilder's* half-model – Great Lakes Engineering Works **HH**

*Grandpappy* – Victor Verhague (Loan Courtesy of Kent Lund) **FM**

*Great Lakes Engineering Works* Model – Builder Unknown **IT**

*Greater Detroit* – Boucher-Lewis & Co. **PS**

*Greater Detroit* Cross-section model – Builder Unknown **PS**

*Greyhound* – Robert Raisch **PS**

*Griffon* – Harvey Nissley **ET**

*H. Houghten* – Emory A. Massman, Jr. **IT**

*Half-model* – Fisher Detroit Boat Basin Company **HH**

*Half-model* – Knud H. Reimers **HH**

*Half-model sailing ship* – Builder Unknown **HH**

*Half-model sidewheeler* – Builder Unknown **HH**

*Harlem* – C.T. McCutcheon, Jr. **IT**

*Helena Macon* – Builder Unknown **FM**

*Henry Ford II* – Attendees of Ford Trade School **IT**

*Huron Brave* – Fred Nagel **IT**

*Huron, Port Gratiot Lighthouse* (in bottle) – Builder Unknown **O**

*J.T. Wing* – Curtis & Dennis Kovach **ET**

*James F. Joy* – Capt. Joseph Johnston **ET**

*James R. Elliott* Half-model – Builder Unknown **HH**

*John Ericsson* – Curtis & Dennis Kovach **IT**

*John G. Munson* – Kenneth Fairbanks **IT**

*John J. Barlum* – American Shipbuilding Co. **IT**

*John Kendall* – Dr. Mike Woolson **MS**

*Judith Lee* – Herbert & James Wright **FM**

*Lady Prevost* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*Lansdowne* – William J. Keller **IT**

*Lawrence* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*Lawrence* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**


*Lifeboat* Model – Builder Unknown **O**

*Little Belt* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**

*Little Giant* Half-model – William Morley **HH**

*Lucia Simpson* – Dr. O.H. Siegmund **ET**





*Mariposa* – Clarence Kroll **MS**  
*Mary* – Arthur Koeppner **IT**  
*Massachusetts* – C.T. McCutcheon, Jr. **IT**  
*Mayflower* – James R. Cunningham **PS**  
*Mayflower* – Robert Raisch **PS**  
*Michigan* – Harvey Nissley **PS**  
*Michigan* – Ronald H. Konzak **PS**  
*Milton* – Curtis & Dennis Kovach **ET**  
*Mim* (in bottle) – Builder Unknown **O**  
*Miss America X* – Builder Unknown **RB**  
*Miss America X* – Builder Unknown **RB**  
*Miss Pepsi V* – Kent Keogh (Loan Courtesy of Doug Dossin) **RB**  
*Miss Smirnoff* – Louis H. Winterhoff **RB**  
*Miss Stars and Stripes* – Builder Unknown **RB**  
*Nancy* – Emmett Priestly **ET**  
*Niagara* – Ed Fogoros **MS**  
*Niagara* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**  
*Niagara* – Houghton Smith, Jr. **MS**  
*North American* – Ken Jilbert **PS**  
*Onoko* – Curtis & Dennis Kovach **IT**  
*Onoko* – John E. Foley **IT**  
 Package Lighter Half-model – Builder Unknown **HH**  
 Package Lighter Half-model – Merchants Lighter Co. **HH**  
 Packet Ship cutaway model – Harvey Nissley **ET**  
*Pamir* (in bottle) – *Capt. B. Lenck Trenton* **O**  
*Patricia* pond model – Herbert & James Wright **FM**  
*Peerless* – C.T. McCutcheon **PS**  
*Pere Marquette 10* – Clarence Kroll **IT**  
*Pere Marquette 10* – Kenneth Fairbanks **IT**  
*Pere Marquette 18* – Oluf Johnson **IT**  
*Pewabic* – Raymond J. Kaiser **IT**  
*Philo Parsons* – Frederick W. Hyde **FM**  
*Pittsburgh Steamship Freighter* (in bottle) – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Pond Model Sailboat – Donn Resnick **FM**  
 Pond model sloop – Herbert & James Wright **FM**  
 Pond model sloop – Red Sprague **FM**  
*Porcupine* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**  
*Prins Willem IV* – Builder Unknown **PS**  
*Prinses Irene* – Fa. C. Dubbelman, Slikkerveer **PS**  
*Queen Charlotte* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**  
*Ralph H. Watson* – *Howard Rasch* **FM**  
*Red Crown* – Van Ryper **IT**  
*Renown* – John H. Farquharsen **IT**  
*Richard D. Shoupe* – Clarence Kroll **IT**  
*S.T. Crapo* – Harvey Nissley **IT**

*Sainte Marie Rail Ferry* – Builder Unknown **IT**  
 Sand Dredge ship – Builder Unknown **ET**  
*Scorpion* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**  
*Seahorse* – Capt. William J. Taylor **FM**  
*SeeandBee* – Builder Unknown **PS**  
 Ship-in-a-Bottle – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Ship-in-a-Bottle – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Ship-in-a-Bottle – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Ship-in-a-Bottle – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Ship-in-a-Bottle (Schooner) – Builder Unknown **O**  
*Sidney O. Neff* – Raymond J. Kaiser **IT**  
 Single Cylinder Steam Engine – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Small Whaleback Steamship – Builder Unknown **IT**  
*Somers* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**  
*South American* – Builder Unknown **PS**  
*South American* – Fred Krueger **PS**  
*Sparkman D. Foster* – Builder Unknown **IT**  
*St. Clair* – Builder Unknown **MS**  
*Stadacona* – Builder Unknown **IT**  
 Steam Engine Model – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Steam Engine Model – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Steam Engine Model – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Steam Engine Model – Builder Unknown **O**  
 Steam powerplant engine model – Joel Lovstedt **O**  
 Steamship (in bottle) – Builder Unknown **O**  
*T.J. McCarthy* – Harvey Nissley **IT**  
*Tartan-37* – Harvey Nissley **PS**  
*Tashmoo* – Harry Carle **PS**  
*Tigress* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**  
*Transfer* – Calamine **IT**  
*Trippe* – Frank & Arthur Woodford **MS**  
*Una* Half-model – Builder Unknown **HH**  
 Unfinished Battleship model – Thomas Owen **MS**  
*Viking-35* – Harvey Nissley **PS**  
*Virginia Ann* pond model – Herbert & James Wright **FM**  
*Walk-in-the-Water* – Ronald H. Konzak **ET**  
*Walter J. McCarthy Jr.* – Builder Unknown **IT**  
*Welcome* – H.H. Busha **ET**  
*Welcome* – Harvey Nissley **ET**  
*Wilfred Sykes* – Builder Unknown **IT**  
*Wilfred Sykes* – Capt. Joseph Johnston **IT**  
*William Clay Ford* – Sam Buchanan **IT**  
*Wolverine* – Builder Unknown **MS**  
*Yantic* – Lt. Comm. Otis Howard **MS**  
*Yoreda* – Museum Staff **PS**  
*Yosemite* – U.S. Navy **MS**  
 3D-Printed models – Printed by Dr. Michael Vilag **O**