Coulter Exhibit To Open In Visitor Center

Nearly seventy years after the death of William Alexander Coulter, San Francisco’s most esteemed maritime artist, there is an unparalleled revival of interest in his artwork.

The exhibit, called “W.A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush With The Sea,” will open on the centennial of the great earthquake and fire, April 18, 2006. It will be staged in the heart of Coulter’s waterfront, at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park’s Visitor Center at Hyde and Jefferson Streets (near Fisherman’s Wharf).

Coulter’s 10-foot-long earthquake painting, “San Francisco Fire, 1906,” (shown above) painted on a window shade pulled by the artist from the rubble during the fire, will be a highlight of the opening. The exhibition will include paintings from private and public institutions and collections from around the country, many to be exhibited for the first time. This will be the largest and most complete retrospective of Coulter’s work ever attempted.

It is estimated that the artist created more than 1,000 oil paintings and 5,000 illustrations between 1869 and 1936. In addition to painting ship portraits, which adorned the offices of San Francisco’s most powerful men, as well as shipping magnates around the world, his illustrations regularly appeared in the pages of the former daily newspaper, the “San Francisco Call.” As a precursor to today’s news photographer, Coulter and his sketches captured waterfront scenes both peaceful and turbulent.

Coulter’s images in oil and ink transport viewers to the post-Gold Rush-era of the Barbary Coast. Fires destroyed much of his legacy, and roughly two-thirds of his work is unaccounted for.

Continued on Page 4
Volunteers: Great People Doing Great Things

In September the volunteers at San Francisco Maritime had good reason to celebrate at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Dinner held on the ferryboat Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. The dinner is one way of acknowledging our appreciation to our volunteers for their dedication and support. Nearly 135 volunteers, guests, and staff members attended the happy event. During 2005, volunteers provided over 37,800 hours of time and service. The park offers myriad activities for those who wish to volunteer. Duties include: ship maintenance and preservation, docent and living history programs, honing nautical skills at the small boat shop, serving at the library, providing assistance to the administrative, exhibits, and historic documents departments, or helping with one of the park’s special events. To join our family of volunteers, please call 415-556-1633 or email the volunteer program manager, terryl.dorman@nps.gov. For more information on volunteering with the National Park Service, go to www.nps.gov/volunteer.

Visitor Information

Dates and Hours of Operation
The Hyde Street Pier, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30am–5:00pm—last entry at 4:30pm (October 2-May 30), and 9:30am–5:30am—last entry at 5pm (Memorial Day-October 1).
The Maritime Museum (Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building), located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street, is open 10:00am–5:00pm, year-round.
The Visitor Center, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30am–5:00pm (October 16-May 27) and 9:30am–7:00pm (May 28-October 15).
The Maritime Library, located on the third floor of Bldg. E in Fort Mason Center, open 10:00am–8:00pm Tuesdays, 1:00am–5:00pm Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00am–5:00pm Saturdays.

No-Fee Areas
Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Aquatic Park Historic District (including the Maritime Museum) and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).

Boarding Pass (Entrance Fee For Historic Vessels): $5.00

Reservations/Permits
Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. At least one month’s notice and application for Special Use Permits are required. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis.

Contact Information
General Park Information: 415-447-5000
Maritime Store: 415-775-2665
Maritime Library: 415-561-7030

USP Pannomato: 415-775-1943
Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr
Association Website: www.maritime.org

O n the second day following the great 1906 earthquake, 30,000 frantic residents, forced to flee to the waterfront to escape fires raging through the city, were safely evacuated by boat from the present day site of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and Fisherman’s Wharf. Preceding this rescue the city was enveloped in spectacular tragedy and chaos.

At 5:12 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, a 7.9 to 8.3 magnitude earthquake shook San Francisco and most of California for 48 seconds. In the city, the seismic upheaval cut all communication with police and fire stations. The entire electrical and water supply system failed. Scores of buildings, especially in the hard hit South of Market area, partially collapsed, leaving hundreds of people killed or trapped inside.

Then the fires started. During the day the more than 300 fires ignited in the city, many of them eventually joined together. The firefighters had little or no water to suppress them. In 1906, San Francisco was the largest city west of the Mississippi River with 410,000 residents, and it was in danger of complete destruction. The person most qualified to lead the emergency response, Fire Chief Dennis Sullivan, was downtown waterfront. For three days, with little or no rest, Lieutenant Freeman and sailors aboard the fire boat Leslie and tugboat Active, lead the firefighting efforts to save the waterfront and railroad yards. The arrival of the Navy tugs greatly aided the firefighting effort as the city did not have a fire boat. Freeman directed the men to lay one fire hose after another into the interior streets. The tug’s pumps were able to supply salt water from the Bay through the hose to fight the fires. Freeman’s efforts covered most of the waterfront and extended many blocks inland. Protecting the seaport and railroad yards were crucial for the city’s survival and renewal.

On Thursday afternoon, April 19, Army crew used dynamite to destroy buildings on Van Ness Avenue to create a fire break to protect the western half of the city. Unfortunately a dynamited chemical warehouse started a fire that burned east into Russian Hill. The next morning, the winds kicked up and the fire burned through North Beach and Fisherman’s Wharf. The North Beach residential area had not been evacuated as the fast moving fire approached, resulting in true and absolute panic. Many residents were overruled by the fire and perished. More than 30,000 found themselves trapped at the water’s edge between Mason and Pier 27, “hysterically endeavoring to escape the flames,” Lieutenant Freeman wrote.

Sixteen men and two officers from the USS Chicago rescued 20,000 residents from the foot of Van Ness Avenue, at the present day site of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Commander Badger of USS Chicago wrote, “The city on the Fort Mason side of the harbor was, at this time, in full blaze. The air was filled with burning cinders, thousands of panic stricken, homeless and destitute people thronged the shore in the neighborhood of the Fort.”

Every ship, scow and rowboat was used to evacuate residents off the piers and beaches. Waiting with the thousands to be rescued from the sweeping firestorm, historian Bailey Millard later wrote, “About us was every conceivable kind of craft: tugs shrieked sharp warnings, boatmen called aloud from two junks crowded with escaping Chinese. We passed lateen-sailed fisher boats, loaded down with Italian voyagers, shouting to each other.”

The fires following the earthquake stand as the largest peacetime city fire in world history. The four-day event took more than 3,000 lives, rendered 200,000 homeless and burned 28,000 buildings. In 1906 dollars, property damage was estimated at $500 million. In terms of measuring by comparing the total values of the Gross Domestic Product, economists have figured the damage to be worth $195 billion today.

By John Cunnane, Supervisory Park Ranger, SF Maritime NHP

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MUSIC
CHANTEY SING
Saturdays, January 7, February 4 and March 4, 8-10:30 a.m. No fee. Abroad the historic vessel Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations required call 415-556-6435 or email peter_haasins@nps.gov. Sing traditional working songs aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship’s galley.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS
Saturdays, January 21, February 18 and March 18, 2000. Abroad Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 17 free). History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 7 and up.

CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTION

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTION
Saturday, February 18, 2000. Abroad Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission. Join Park Ranger Peter Kasin and Park Volunteer Richard Adriano in a program of African American and Caribbean based work songs of sailors and dock workers. The cho- ruses to these chanteys are easy to sing and participants will be encouraged to sing along.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II LIBERTY SHIPS
Sundays, February 12 and 26, 2000. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee. Aboard the historic Balclutha at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee. March 19, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee. See shore, migratory, deck and resident birds on this birdwalk. Bring binoculars, bird books and dress in layers.

LIFE IN NELSON’S VANITY

WENDY THE WELDER: WOMEN BUILDING LIBERTY SHIPS IN WWII
Sundays, March 12 and 26, 2000. Abroad Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission. Come to the premiere of “Shipping Out,” the story of America’s Seafaring Women,” filmed on board merchant ships in coastal waters from Alaska to New York. “Shipping Out” looks at the little known history of women and seafaring in America. Meet the producer, Maria Brooks and listen to sea-songs regaling women sailors and talk with women mariners. For information, and to RSVP, call 415-447-5900.

ENGINEERING TOUR
Sundays, January 7, February 4 and March 2, 2000. In the Visitor Center theater. Join a ranger for a slide show about life in the British Royal Navy at the time of Nelson, featuring period food, clothing and surgical instruments.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
PREMIERE OF THE DOCUMENTARY, “SHIPPING OUT” Saturday, February 18, 7 - 7:30 a.m. Abroad Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Admission $5, $4 for Friends of the Library and Association members. Hear fascinating accounts of their contributions in this slide presenta-

EXHIBIT WOMEN WHO CHANGED MARITIME HISTORY
Daily, throughout February. On Hyde Street Pier. Photo exhibit illustrating the often overlooked impact women have had on maritime history.

TEA WITH THE LADIES AND SUFFRAGETTE MARCH
Saturday, March 11, 2000. In the Ark houseboat and Hyde Street Pier. No fee. Join a sail of Victorian women (the Park’s costumed living history players) on an afternoon in the year 1901 as they discuss issues ranging from corsetry to voting rights. At noon there will be a march on the pier in support of women’s suffrage. Come voice your opinion.

SHIP RADIO DEMONSTRATION
Saturdays, January 28, February 25 and March 25, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In the Maritime Museum. No fee. In a replica WWII ship’s radio room, experts interpret the technology and explain the vital role ship’s radio operators played. They will also send a real radiogram message for you to anywhere in the United States.

SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR
Saturdays, January 28, February 25 and March 25, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. No fee. Reservations required, call the Boat Shop at 415-556-4031. Bring a bag lunch and ride with us over to our small craft warehouse in Alamed. We’ll tour the collection of nearly 100 local historic boats, discussing interesting elements of their history, design and construction.

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PROGRAMS
SAN FRANCISCO OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL
Friday and Sunday, January 14 and 15. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center. The Festival features independent film works that reveal the beauty, power and mysteries of our oceans. Catch the third wave of the Ocean Film Festival. In partnership with San Francisco Maritime NHP. For details go to www.oceanfilmfest.org.

BORN AGAIN: THE MANY LIVES OF THE SCHOONER C.A. THAYER
Sundays, January 8 and February 19, 2000. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee. Adapting to multiple careers, the C.A. Thayer has survived for more than a century. Learn how the restoration of this 1899 West Coast schooner will preserve not only the vessel itself, but also a variety of vanishing maritime traditions.

EUREKA! ENGINEER ROOM TOUR
Sundays, January 15, February 5 and March 5, 2000. Meet on Eureka’s gangway. Vessel admission. Take a special tour of the ferryboat Eureka’s engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR
Sundays, January 8, February 5 and March 5, 2000. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission. Tour includes climbing moderately steep steps and entering cramped spaces.

EXPLORE THE MARITIME MUSEUM
Sundays, January 8, February 5 and March 5, 2000. In the Visitor Center theater. Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

THE OCEAN: BARRIER OR HIGHWAY?
Sundays, January 15, February 12 and March 12. (March program on Balclutha) at 5 p.m. In the Visitor Center. Was the ocean a barrier or a highway for the vessels Balclutha, Thayer and Hercules? Join a ranger for a thirty minute slide presenta-

BIRDS OF THE BAY
Sundays, January 22, February 19 and March 19, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee. See shore, migratory, deck and resident birds on this birdwalk. Bring binoculars, bird books and dress in layers.

PIRACY AND MARINE TERRORISM


MODELERS’ WORKSHOP Saturday afternoons. On the car deck of the Eureka. Vessel admission. View the Modelshipts on the car deck of the Eureka. The public is invited to stop by and watch the model builders in action.

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MARITIME TRADES
Daily, throughout February. On Hyde Street Pier. Photo exhibit about the contributions of African Americans in maritime industries.

SAN FRANCISCO OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL
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THE STORY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL YACHT POTOMAC

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MARITIME TRADES
Daily, throughout February. On Hyde Street Pier. Photo exhibit about the contributions of African Americans in maritime industries.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II LIBERTY SHIPS
Sundays, February 12 and 26, 2000. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee. A slide program detailing the contributions of African Americans to the construction and operation of Liberty Ships during World War II.

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Fun and Education for Younger Sailors

This is a special section of the Maritime News just for kids. Listed below are some opportunities at the park to voyage through the museum, to sing like a sailor and to become a Junior Ranger!

SATURDAYS ARE FOR KIDS AT HYDE STREET PIER
Look for other special kids’ activities on the program board next to the ticket booth on Hyde Street Pier.

WEIGH ANCHOR

On board ship, sailors use the capstan to help them lift heavy objects such as the ship’s anchor. Join us for a hands-on demonstration of the power of that machine. In this maritime version of tug-of-war, it’s children against adults: the kids use the capstan to try to reel in a line as their parents pull the other way! Who will win?

DORY DRILL
On intermittent Saturdays, call the day before for schedule, 415-447-5000. On Hyde Street Pier. No fee.

Grab a line and help raise and lower our little flat-bottomed row boat from the side of the pier in this hands-on demonstration of maritime teamwork. You’ll walk away with a knowledge of basic line handling and a sea chantey ringing in your ears.

MUSICAL ACTIVITY DITTY BAGS
Grap a rope handle and explore the Museum on this fun group “voyage.” Navigate through the exhibits (using a real compass), write a “radiogram,” compose messages using signal flags and roleplay about life at sea with character cards. This free program is available at the museum desk.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS
Saturdays, January 21, February 18 and March 18. Abaord Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission. History comes alive in this special program where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM
NEW AND IMPROVED!
Pick up the FREE and newly improved booklet and explore the park’s historic ships. By completing the activities you will learn about seafaring history, become a steward of the national parks (a steward is one who takes care of parks) and earn a Junior Ranger badge!

New booklets are available on the park website. Each of the six lessons contain a “Seaside Story.” These historically accurate fictional stories will capture the imaginations of your kids and help them walk in the sea boots of kids from the Age of Sail. Find the Voyager curriculum at www.nps.gov/safri/local/education/education.hmt.

FAMILY ACTIVITY DITTY BAGS
Grab a rope handle and explore the Museum on this fun group “voyage.” Navigate through the exhibits (using a real compass), write a “radiogram,” compose messages using signal flags and roleplay about life at sea with character cards. This free program is available at the museum desk.

Coulter

Continued From Page 1.

“W.A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush With the Sea,” is being organized by the W.A. Coulter Exhibition Committee of the Paul and Linda Kahn Foundation (San Francisco) in partnership with San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Other supporting organizations include the Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library, and the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association. Co-sponsoring organizations include the California Historical Society, the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, and the Society of California Pioneers.

For information on the exhibit contact Dave Hull, Principal Librarian at 415-561-7031 or Linda Kahn at 415-346-0643.

SIGN ABOARD AT THE PARK ASSOCIATION
You can show your support for the Park through membership in the Maritime Park Association, our non-profit partner organization. Your membership assists with preservation and education projects for Park ships and collections. Membership comes with special benefits at each level, including the Sea Letter magazine, free park admission, and Maritime Store discounts. For more information, call Member Services at 415-564-6662 x 13, or email nmecum@maritime.org or go to www.maritime.org.