Ernest Gann Collection

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2020
Descriptive Summary

Title: Ernest Gann Collection

Dates: 1955 August - September

Collection Number: G36

Creator/Collector: Gann, Ernest Kellogg, 1910-1991

Extent: 1 archival box

Repository: Harrison Memorial Library
Carmel-by-the-Sea, California 93921

Abstract: This collection contains materials pertaining to Gann's ship, the Albatros. Included are black and white photographs, ship blueprints, and copies of ship logs. Gann purchased the ship in 1954, and it appeared in the 1958 movie "Twilight for the Gods", which was based on one of Gann's novels. Gann later sold the Albatros to a sailing school, and it sunk in a squall in 1961, killing several passengers. This incident was the subject of the 1996 film "White Squall".

Throughout his life Gann held a variety of jobs, including general manager of Broadway plays, commercial fisherman, cartoonist, commercial pilot, barnstormer pilot, and newsreel cameraman, before becoming an author and screenwriter. Gann's first novel, "Island in the Sky," was published in 1940, and those that followed dealt with flying, sailing, or adventurous historical themes. His novels were translated into successful movies and a television miniseries. He lived in Pebble Beach until 1965, when he moved to the San Juan Islands in Washington State.

Language of Material: English

Access

Materials are open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Donated by Steven Gann

Biography/Administrative History

Ernest K. Gann was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on 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. Gann's first novel, "Island in the Sky," was published in 1940, and those that followed dealt with flying, sailing, or adventurous historical themes. His novels were translated into successful movies and a television miniseries. In 1954 Gann purchased the 1920s schooner the Albatros. The ship appeared in the 1958 movie "Twilight for the Gods", which was based on one of Gann's novels. Gann later sold the Albatros to a sailing school, and it sunk in a squall in 1961, killing several passengers. This incident was the subject of the 1996 film "White Squall". Ernest Gann lived in Pebble Beach until 1965, when he moved to the San Juan Islands in Washington State.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection contains material pertaining to Gann's ship the Albatros, including black and white photographs, ship blueprints, and copies of ship logs.

Indexing Terms

Boats and boating
Sailing ships