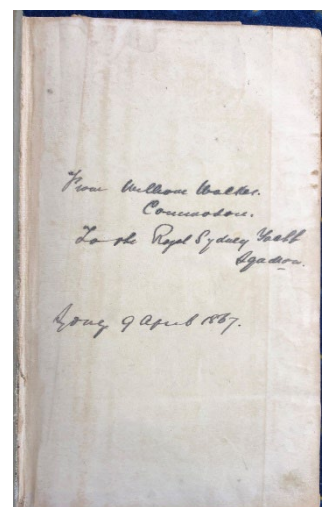
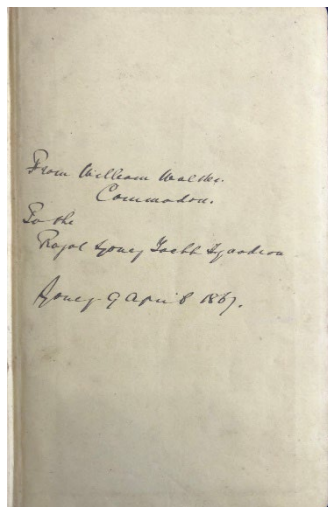
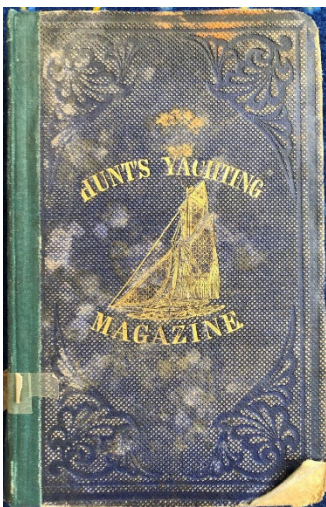


# Hunt's Yachting Magazine

Members may be aware that the History Committee have undertaken in the last 18 months an audit/reconciliation of the contents of the Library. In doing so, they have created a digitised catalogue of the Library contents. On the right-hand side of the room are 2 locked cabinets which contain books more fragile and in many cases, valuable, than those available for borrowing on the left-hand shelves. With the invaluable guidance of Rose Docker, our part time Archive professional, a number of books have been identified as "too valuable and fragile" for mere display in the cabinets and in the months ahead, we will be sharing with the members some of the treasures which have been found.

To start the ball rolling, 2 volumes of Hunt's Yachting Magazine have been found, donated, and we think signed, by our first Commodore, William Walker, at the time of his resignation in April, 1867. The volumes are for 1853 and 1863.



Hunt's Yachting Magazine was the bible for all aspects of the sport for 30 years and are highly collectable.

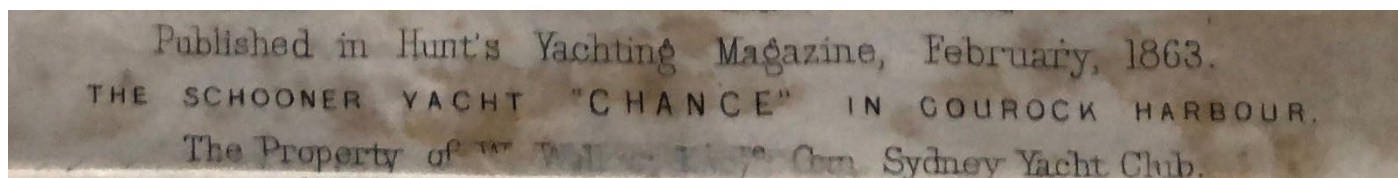
The following is a description from Anthony J. Simmonds – Naval and Maritime - an antiquarian bookshop in Greenwich, London, and well worth a visit for anyone interested in maritime matters.

*Hunt & Co., appear to have started as a firm of commercial printers (letter-press copper-plate and lithographic), and commenced publishing their Hunt's Universal Yacht List in 1848. The List was issued annually in May or June and contained the names of all yachts belonging to the Royal and other Clubs of the United Kingdom, with their rigs, tonnage, owners, builders, etc; also list of Club Officers, tide tables, time-tables for racing, lights and lighthouses, foreign Clubs etc. In addition, the List included coloured ensigns, burgees and yacht signals.*

*The success of the List must have encouraged them to publish the Yachting Magazine, with the first issue appearing in 1852, priced 1sh monthly, or 12sh yearly. The Magazine is a wonderful source of information on yachting and yachtsmen in the 19th century. It embraces everything relating to yachting and nautical affairs; amongst which are the full description of every regatta and match as they took place, including the America's Cup; practical notes on yachting, law of measurement, naval architecture, the management of yachts and boats, racing records, elements of naval construction, speed of yachts, lectures on yachting, velocity of tides, nautical terms and their uses, sail measurement, construction of yachts, yacht signals, tides, rigging, sparring, fitting and sailing, with descriptions of anchors, ropes, blocks, and sails; mechanical inventions, ballast, boat lowering, crews, book reviews and notices.*

*The Hunts also established a yacht agency for the sale and purchase of yachts, an advert for this service appears in Volume 9, 1860. In later years the Yachting Magazine seems to have had problems, as after 1865 there are a number of announcements requesting more support from subscribers and yacht clubs. The Magazine ceased publication with the last issue being published in 1887.*

In the 1862 Volume, there is drawing of William Walker's vessel "Chance" with the caption:



It states that the vessel is "The Property of W<sup>m</sup> Walker Esq Com. Sydney Yacht Club."



Gourock is located 7 miles west of Greenock in Scotland, 26 miles west of Glasgow on the end of the bank where the River Clyde meets the sea.

Once a small fishing harbour known for its herring, it was created a burgh of barony in 1694. It developed in association with ropemaking, copper mining, textile weaving and the production of kippers. A pier was opened in 1820 from which a ferry service ran to Dunoon. Gourock's popularity increased with day trippers visiting by steam boat from Glasgow.

Today Gourock is the headquarters of the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry company. It operates car ferry services to Dunoon and passenger ferries linking with Helensburgh and Kilcreggan.

**John Maclurcan May. 2023**