

1887 to 1890 NGH Carbon Copy Book Pages 10r-15r. W C. Whitney 06/27/1887. *Halsey C. Herreshoff Collection*. Herreshoff Marine Museum.

June 27<sup>th</sup> 1887

Hon. W C. Whitney

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant was received several days ago, since which I have given the proposal therein contained my attention.

I have not communicated with Mr. Burgess as you requested, for the following reasons:-

I have for Mr. Burgess a strong personal regard, growing from an acquaintance of many years, and great respect for his capacity as a designer of sailing yachts, but with steam vessels and torpedo boats particularly he would be of no assistance to me any more than I would be to him in preparing a book on Natural History. I have made the form of vessels as much a study as I have the propelling motor (be it either wind or steam) and the measure of success that we have attained is no doubt due to the learning of parts which is the outgrowth of such study, experiment and research, as well as the contemplation of the results of other designers and builders.

A certain degree of secrecy is all the patent or protection that a successful builder can have, and to me it seems unreasonable that he be asked to make his best designs public for an inadequate compensation, seeing that to make such designs is through knowledge gained by years of labor and patient study of the results of building - as well as of financial outlay in direct experiments.

..... have had in view making plans for our company to build from, in case they were the successful bidders for the proposed torpedo boat, and knowing from my interview with you a month ago, the contract would embody a premium for speed above 22 knots, and feeling confident we would be entitled to a premium for a high rate of speed with a vessel of our own design and construction, - I as Superintendent and large stockholder deem it more to my interest to decline your offer of \$5000 for plans of the proposed torpedo boat.

I have endeavored to explain my position and views frankly and squarely, and hoping that it may not be prejudicial to me or my interests as designer and builder.

I am Sir respectfully yours,  
*Nathl G. Herreshoff* (signed)

P.S. If I have in any misunderstood your desires I would be glad to hear from you again.

NGH (signed initials)