

## WHAT CAME FIRST, THE LIBRARY OR THE BOAT?

Visitors to Provincetown's public library are in for a sweet surprise.

Go up a flight from the main floor and you are suddenly dwarfed by a fully rigged schooner with a mast that shoots up to the building's cupola. Considered the crown jewel of 19th Century architecture in Provincetown, the former Heritage Museum sheltered this half-scale model of

the Rose Dorothea, winner of the prestigious Lipton Cup, since construction began on the boat in 1977. When the town voted to relocate the library here from its cramped quarters farther up Commercial Street, the cherished boat was part of the deal, grandfathered

in, one might say. The building, now undergoing the second phase of major renovations, has a rich history. Originally a Methodist Church, it was converted in the sixties to the Chrysler Art Museum, and decades later to the town-run Heritage Museum. Legendary local salt Francis "Flyer" Santos and his crew of volunteers began construction on the model in 1977 and the completed Rose Dorothea was dedicated on June 25, 1988. Spanning a length of 66 feet and six inches with a 12-foot-six-inch beam, it is one of the largest indoor ship models in the world. Library visitors can view the

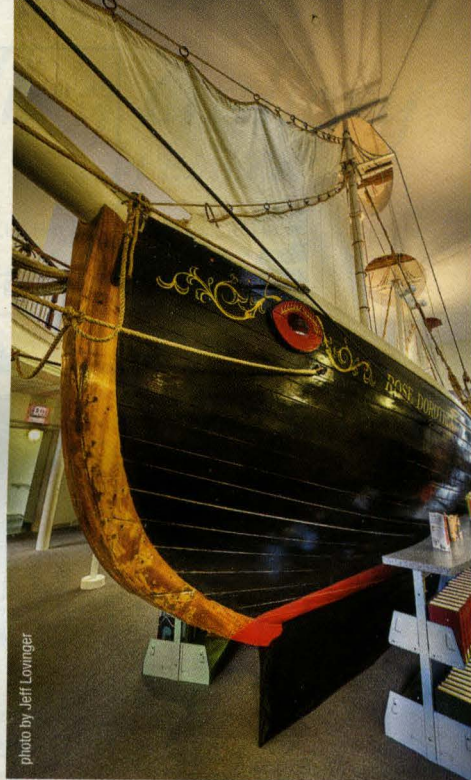


photo by Jeff Lovinger

Lipton Cup, as well as a photographic history of the model's constructions. Oh – and there are also a lot of books.