

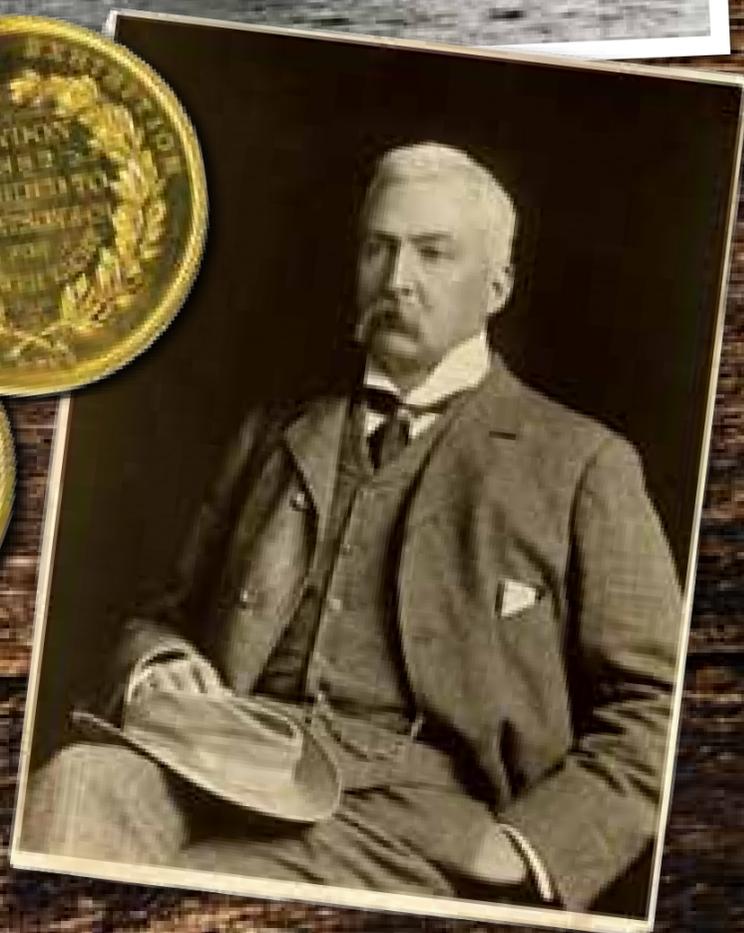
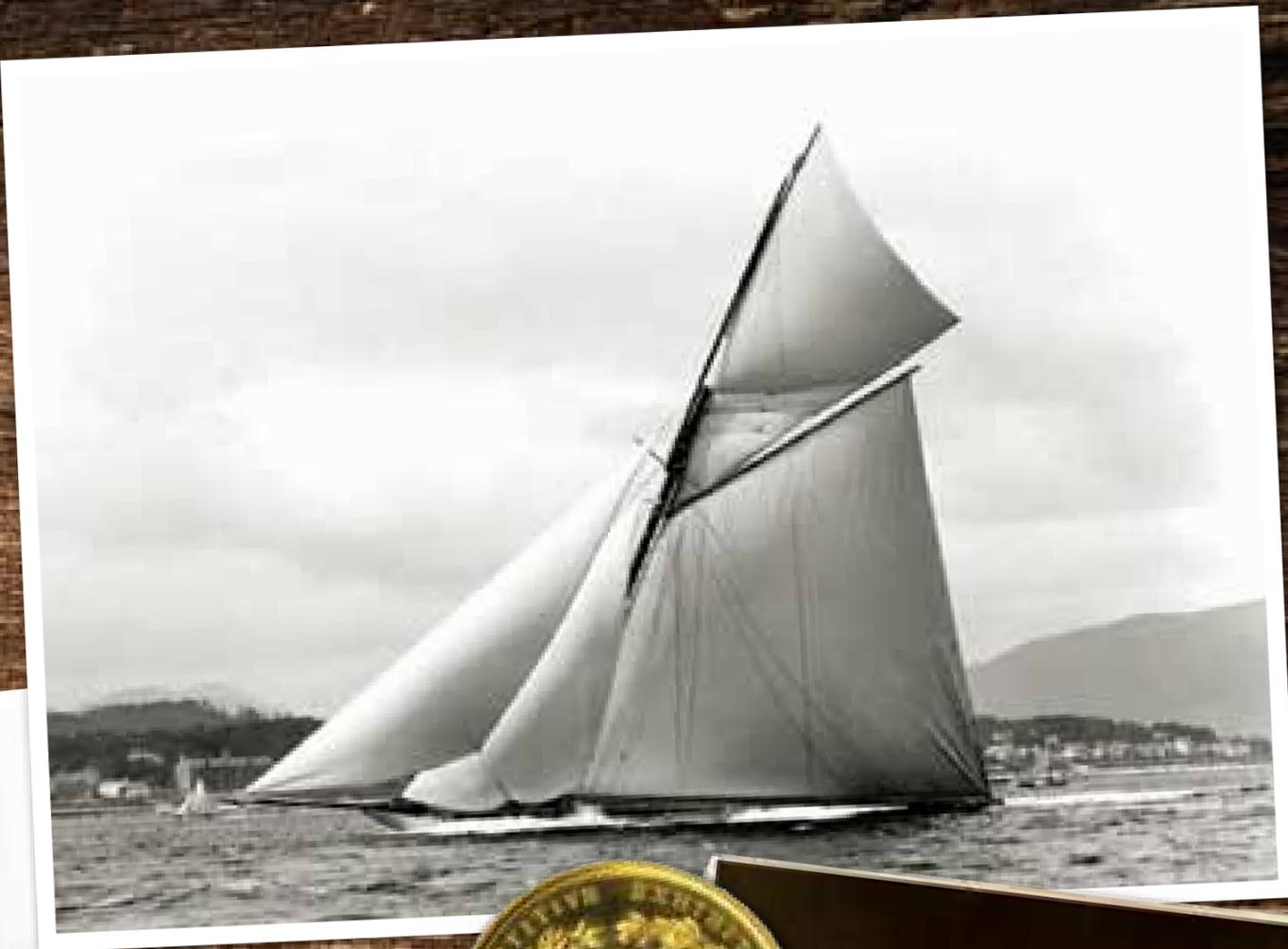
A WALK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

G.L. WATSON *Grand designs*



Cutting-edge design, project management, and a client book that includes the great and the good – that’s an impressive modus operandi for any superyacht company. The astonishing thing about G.L. Watson is that it has been doing this for over a century. The company has, not surprisingly, gathered an archive of material with thousands of unique and diverse elements – drawings, memos, photographs, letters, logbooks and mementos. We’ve been taking a look at just a small sample of that evocative material.

Founded in 1873, the company today offers a host of services, from design to owner’s representation. All material here is courtesy of G.L. Watson & Co. www.glwatson.com



This page, right: *Mayflower*, an 1,800-ton steam yacht designed for Ogden Goelet in 1896. She was commissioned as the US Presidential yacht in 1905.

Inset and top: A commemorative ashtray made from the boom of the 1893 *Britannia* and presented to G.L. Watson & Co. by King Edward VIII in August 1937.

Facing page, right: George Lennox Watson – on average, he launched a new design every six weeks for 30 years during his career.

Top: The America’s Cup challenger *Valkyrie III*, designed for the Earl of Dunraven in 1895.

Inset: The Shipwrights’ Exhibition Medal awarded to G.L. Watson for the design of the schooner *Lenore* in 1882.



Dear Mr Watson.

The great success which, by God's blessing, has been achieved during the career of this year has given the numerous expectations. Your promises of last year have been completely fulfilled. I therefore am happy to be able to especially say but thanks to you for the extraordinary ability and care you have taken in designing and in watching over the building of the yacht. In recognition of all the pains you took, you will kindly accept the accompanying gift. It is my most sincere wish that your action and energetic spirit may in many long years to come help you to remain in the high position which you now occupy as one of the most prominent yacht designers in the world.

I remain your truly
 Wilhelm
 German Emperor and King of Prussia

Kaiserhof
 10th October 1896



Facing page, main: The magnificent racing schooner *Rainbow*, designed for C. L. Orr-Ewing in 1893. Above: *Britannia*, designed for HRH Prince of Wales 1893. Inset: The burgee brooch for *Vandura*, a cutter designed for S. Clark in 1886. This page, left: *Nahlin* on the slipway, designed for Lady Yule in 1929. The 91-metre yacht was restored in 2010, with G.L. Watson serving as exterior designers and owner's representative. Above: A letter from Kaiser Wilhelm to G.L. Watson, thanking him for the success of *Meteor II* in October 1896. Inset top: *Shamrock II*'s burgee brooch (right), and a tie pin for the Royal Clyde Yacht Club tie pin, of which G.L. Watson was a member. Inset above left: Original curves and rulers from the G.L. Watson drawing office.