

Avanti - Design 85

LOA: 55' 8" DWL: 40' Beam: 12' 5" Draft: 7' 9" Sail area: 1,354 sq. ft.

In the all-conquering way of the best S&S yachts, those designed primarily for cruising also brought home more than their share of silver trophies. Perhaps the best example of this was the gorgeous, light gray yawl crafted for Walter Rothschild in 1935. Her name, *Avanti*, means "Forward!" in Italian—and that's exactly how she went.

Although Mr. Rothschild had requested that the sail plan be slightly smaller than might be expected for a yawl of this size, and although she was built somewhat heavier than expected in order to ensure easy motion at sea, she could not be slowed down. She won the highly competitive Gibson Island Race as easily as if she'd been designed to do nothing but win.

Of particular interest in her cabin layout is the vast after

stateroom and the galley forward, with oil-burning shipmate range. Above the table in the conveniently located navigator's station (where today one would find electronic gear) were cleverly designed chart stowage and signal flag lockers. Sad to say, all this careful planning and beautifully polished execution came to a sad, crashing end during the New England hurricane of 1938.

One of this book's authors remembers *Avanti* lying on her beam ends, high above the tideline of Padanaram Harbor (Massachusetts), smashed but somehow still beautiful. Despite this tragic destiny, *Avanti* lives on in another sense, for she served as a guideline boat or "parent form" (in Olin's terminology) for many subsequent yachts, notably *Blitzen*.



