NEWSLETTER
of
The Society For
Nautical Research
No. 83
August 2011
I will start my first column as Chairman of the Society by thanking Richard Harding, on behalf of all members of the Society, for all the time that he has so willingly given to it as a member of Council, as Honorary Editor of *The Mariner’s Mirror* and from 2005 to 2011 as Chairman of the Council of the Society. Twelve months ago he reported that a ‘Way Ahead Group’ had been set up to begin the process of planning our trajectory into our second century. I described to the Annual General Meeting on 18 June the main conclusions of the Group. In many ways the structure of the Society reflects the standard arrangements of an Edwardian learned society. After a century it is time for a rethink and that is what we are doing. I and my colleagues are fully aware of the value of *The Mariner’s Mirror* and of the place that it holds amongst those with a serious interest in maritime history. *The Mirror*, recently ranked as an international class 1 journal on the European Science Foundation’s European Reference List for the Humanities, has been described as ‘the jewel in the Society’s crown’. In the future we shall seek to add lustre to that crown and to make the Society more responsive to present-day working conditions.

On the publications side this means being able to offer a digitized and fully searchable product to academics, libraries and other institutions (as indeed to personal members if that is what they want). Very few comparable journals now publish only in hard copy – and we must not be left behind. Accordingly we are in negotiation with one of the university presses to see whether we can utilize their skills in digitization and electronic publication to supplement our traditional print publication. We are planning to make the transition from print to digital for institutional members from next year and the Annual General Meeting agreed a new subscription regime which better reflects the new cost base that the Society needs to fund.

Digitization also means that we need to run a much more responsive website. It is now the route through which nearly all new members find us and reach us. We are already testing a payment platform on the web site which will allow the payment of subscriptions and for individual *Mirror* articles and anything else without leaving the site.

Digitization also means that this Newsletter can be produced much nearer to its publication date and so can become far more informative.

**Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton**
Editorial

I was amazed to see some photographs emailed to me earlier this month by Chris Fitz, a university lecturer who lives in China. They show a full size replica of HMS Victory in the middle of a deserted but newly built shopping centre just outside the town of Wuxi, Jiangsu province. It really is a stunning sight and seems faithful in detail. There is also a reproduction of the London Eye big wheel in the same complex. One of the things I find most strange about the whole set-up is that having spent the equivalent of what must be hundreds of millions of pounds building the enormous shopping centre, there are over 2,500 shops, giant piazzas, squares, galleries and other extraordinary features, the whole place is empty, not a single shop fitted out or occupied. The whole place has the feel of a ghost town. This huge site is surrounded by plots of vegetable patches with a few local farmers wearing coolie hats tending their Chinese lettuce. I can only assume that there are big plans to develop the whole area into another giant high-rise city like those that spring up every day in this part of China and then sit empty for years. I can’t see that the present population of about 100 locals is going to give a return on the investment made. The pictures are on the SNR website and well worth a visit. You will find them on the under Heritage and Victory.

Barry Coombs

Professor N. A. M. Rodger

Belated congratulations to Nicholas Rodger who has been honoured by the US Naval War College which has awarded him the inaugural Hattendorf Prize, an international award that aims to recognize original research contributions in the field of maritime history. The award was established in recognition of Professor Hattendorf’s contribution to scholarship and service in the Naval War College. Its purpose is to honour and express appreciation for distinguished academic research, insight and writing that contributes to a deeper historical understanding of the broad context and interrelationships involved in the roles, contributions, limitations and uses of sea service in the field of maritime history. Professor Hattendorf said, ‘In selecting Nicholas Rodger as its first Prize Laureate, the Naval War College honours him as an exemplary scholar, whose work ranges across a thousand years of Britain’s naval history and is deeply founded in both original archival research and knowledge of the best scholarship in numerous languages.’
Important News from the Hon. Secretary, Peter Winterbottom:

‘THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY’

The supplement to the May 2011 Newsletter included a copy of the report of The Way Ahead Group. All members, whether they attended the Annual General Meeting on 18 June 2011 or not, are invited to send any views that they might have on this report either by post to Peter Winterbottom, Honorary Secretary, The Society for Nautical Research, 6 Ashmeadow Road, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancs., LA5 0AE or by email to honsecretary.snr@btinternet.com by 16 September 2011. The Society needs to know what you expect of your Society and how we might meet your needs.

A Northern SNR?

As reported in the Society Records, at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 June 2011 a member asked whether there was any interest among the membership in forming a northern unit within the Society. If members are interested in exploring the formation of such a group please register your interest with the Honorary Secretary at honsecretary.snr@btinternet.com and he will forward your messages including contact details to the member concerned.

National Maritime Museum: Sammy Ofer Wing

The new reading room in the NMM Sammy Ofer wing opened on 14 July 2011 with access to collections on open access only (as the collections will continue to be moved into the stores). A full service with access to all of the collections will start from 5 September 2011. For complete details, please access the NMM website at nmm.ac.uk

Webmaster

There has been a change of webmaster since the last newsletter. Gareth Cole who has done such a good job for the last few years has handed over the reins to Captain Paul Hughes, PhD. If you have any information for the web, please email it to him at tides@btinternet.com.
The past year has in many respects been an important year in the history of our Society. It has resulted in our centenary history, *Mirror of the Seas*, published in January 2010 and the centenary issue of *The Mariner’s Mirror* published in January 2011. Both publications made great demands on the Hon. Editor’s time and on that of Professor Derek J, Oddy who co-authored the centenary history. We were however, happy to produce both publications without taking expenses and in so doing not burdening further the already scant resources of the Society, handled expertly by our Hon. Treasurer, Dr Peter Nash and its administration by our Hon. Secretary, Peter Winterbottom. This is also an appropriate time to thank our Administrative Editor, Dr Paula Turner, for coping with such a heavy workload over the year.

2011 also saw the publication in the Society Records of the report of Way Ahead Group. They were charged with plotting a course on which our Society could continue to flourish over the course of this century. This is no easy task, given the demographic of our membership, and the almost daily changes to the medium of publication on the web. Young scholars, it seems, are turning away from books and print journals and getting most of their information from the web free from university libraries. Indeed, most, if not all, of our new members have come to the Society from our website. Given this trend—a new website is now under construction which will result in a far better product than hitherto, including a secure payment platform for members.

In tandem with this development, the Society’s Publications Committee continues to investigate the best method of digitising our past content to current international data handling and preservation standards. We have also been in negotiations with academic publishers to market and to publish our journal. These negotiations are continuing on the basis of what is best for the Society in the long term and not what is best for publishers, although some element of compromise will be inevitable.

We have also been looking at how the Society can increase its current income in order to facilitate its objects in a wider way that we have done in the past. Part of this can be achieved by cutting the costs of our publications without any diminution in quality, increasing advertising and the like. The Hon Editor and the Chairman of the Publications Committee, Cdr David Hobbs, has this under constant consideration.

I would also like to formally thank our past Chairman, Professor Richard
Harding for his unflinching support during his tenure and to welcome our new Chairman, Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton.

Above all else, what I personally value is the loyalty of our members to the Society and to its journal. Many of our new members join on the recommendation of our existing members. Since the inception of our Society this has remained our best marketing tool and at times our only one. That said, raising the Society’s profile nationally and internationally is a sine qua non if we are to continue as a learned society and to influence debate on matters maritime and naval in its widest sense.

We will shortly be re-introducing legacy forms, by which members may wish to remember the Society in their wills. Our task is to remain relevant in an ever-changing climate and to adhere to our past values of probity, loyalty and friendship across the oceans to our members, and to continue to produce quality research in our venerable journal.

Dr Hugh Murphy

The 2nd annual Alan Villiers Memorial Lecture

St Edmund’s Hall,
University of Oxford
Wednesday 28 September 2011
Under the auspices of the Society for Nautical Research, The Naval Review and The Britannia Naval Research Association with the support of the Hudson Trust

Rear-Admiral James Goldrick RAN
Commander, Australian Defence College
From Clones to Counterparts: a Century of Global Naval Cooperation

The event will include an introductory lecture by a post-graduate student of the University and a short selection of Alan Villiers’s maritime films

Lunch and refreshments £30.00, concessions please contact the organizers
Registration from 12.30 p.m.
Lunch at 1.00 p.m.
Lectures begin promptly at 2.00 p.m.
Dinner 7.30 p.m. (at a separate cost tbc)
To book or for more information please contact the AVML event organizers at: avmlpurser@ntlworld.com

E. G. R. Taylor Lecture

13 October 2011
This year the theme is instruments, geography and scientific enquiry: guides to travellers and method in nineteenth-century Britain and France in keeping
The Society for Naval Research (South) was founded in 1962 to promote the historical study of ships, seafaring and other maritime subjects with particular reference to the south of England. There are meetings on the second Saturday of each month from October to May. Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held in the Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2NT, and commence at 2.00 p.m. Persons wishing to lunch with the Society in the Club beforehand should contact Roy Inkersole, tel. +44 (0)2392 831387 at least 72 hours in advance. New members are very welcome: contact David Baynes, tel. +44 (0)2392 831461, or email baynes.david@btinternet.com.

For up-to-the-minute news of SNR (South) activities visit their new website www.snr south.org.uk. New material or queries should be addressed to the webmaster Vicki Woodman at v.woodman@ntlworld.com

Saturday, 8 October 2011
Doreen Hobbs Memorial Conference, Royal Naval Museum
The Sixteenth-century Sailing Navy (tbc)

Saturday, 12 November 2011
AGM Members Research

Saturday, 10 December 2011
Nick Pollard, University of Portsmouth
Commodore Sir Nathaniel Dance (1748–1827): A reappraisal

SNR (South) Programme

Lectures

with E. G. R. Taylor’s interests in the history of geography, instrumentation and travel. This illustrated lecture will examine printed guides to travellers as they helped promote geography as an emergent science. It will highlight the work of, amongst others, the work in the RGS of Julian Jackson and William Hamilton. Other topics covered will be the key but under explored role of instruments and instrumental training in understanding geography’s many narratives of exploration.

The speaker will be Professor Charles W. J. Withers, Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Edinburgh. The venue is the Royal Geographical Society at 17.30 for 18.30. It is free and no booking is required. Supper is available at £25 which must be booked in advance on 020 7591 3100 by midday on 7 October.

The speaker will be Professor Charles W. J. Withers, Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Edinburgh. The venue is the Royal Geographical Society at 17.30 for 18.30. It is free and no booking is required. Supper is available at £25 which must be booked in advance on 020 7591 3100 by midday on 7 October.
Thursday 13 October 2011
Professor Derek J. Oddy, University of Westminster, and Dr Hugh Murphy, National Maritime Museum
Turnbull, Martin & Co and the origins of the frozen meat trade from New Zealand

Thursday 27 October 2011
Hannah Roberts,
King’s College London
A History of the Women’s Royal Naval Service

Thursday 10 November 2011
Dr Jan Lemnitzer,
London School of Economics
Perfidious Albion or Honest Neutral?
Britain’s role in the US Civil War reconsidered

Thursday 8 December 2011
Proctor Memorial Lecture
Professor Gelina Harlaftis,
Ionian University, Corfu
Mr Onassis and game theory

Thursday 12 January 2012
Dr Matthew McCarthy, University of Hull
Pirates, privateers and British policy during the Spanish–American wars of independence, 1810–30

Thursday 26 January 2012
Dr Frédéric Saffroy, Sciences Po Paris
‘The Shield of Neptune’: French coastal defences in the Mediterranean in the 1920s

Thursday 9 February 2012
Dr Richard Hammond, University of Exeter
The British anti-shipping campaign in the Mediterranean in the Second World War

Thursday 23 February 2012
Richard Blakemore, University of Cambridge
Experiencing the British Civil Wars at sea, 1642–46

Thursday 8 March 2012
Dr Carlos Alfaro Zaforteza, King’s College London
A revolution in military affairs: the French Navy after the Franco-Prussian War
Kings Seminar Series

Thursday 3 May 2012
Dr Robert Greenhill, London Metropolitan University
*The withdrawal of British liner shipping from South America after the 1960s*

Thursday 17 May 2012
Dr Craig Lambert, University of Hull
*A voyage into the unknown: can we really know the size of the English merchant fleet in the fourteenth century?*

Meetings take place at 5.15 p.m. at King’s College, WC2R 2LS, The Meeting Room, War Studies Dept, 6th Floor, Old Main Building, except for the Proctor Lecture on 9 December which will take place at Lloyds Register, 71 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BS. Admission to this lecture only is solely by ticket, Barbara Jones, Information Services, at the above address or by emailing barbara.jones@lr.org

The Seminar Programme is organized by the British Commission for Maritime History, with the generous assistance of the Society for Nautical Research, the Maritime Information Association and the Department of War Studies, King’s College, London. For further information contact Professor John Armstrong, 42 Inglis Road, Ealing, London W5 3RL or email john@johnarmstrong.eu.

Conferences, Meetings and Exhibitions

**Europa Nostra UK Annual Meeting and Conference 10/12 September 2011 (to coincide with Heritage Open Days in Portsmouth)**

In Defence of the Realm – In association with the School of Architecture of the University of Portsmouth and the Fortress Study Group and also involving experts of the Europa Nostra Scientific Council from other countries.

The Conference will address the political concept of the Realm and examine historic alliances which led to armed conflict in many parts of Europe over the past 500 years. The consequential impact on social and industrial history of the Navy, both afloat and ashore will be dealt with. There will be a presentation of the development of fortifications from the period of Henry VIII to the Twentieth Century. Members of the Europa Nostra Scientific Council will illustrate the development of Venetian defences in the eastern Mediterranean, the Vauban...
principle of fortification on the western seabord of Europe and the conflicts between the Swedish, Danish and Russian Empires in the Baltic.

For more information and registration contact: Dr Lester Borley CBE, 4, Bedford Place, Edinburgh EH4 3DH. Tel 0131 332 2364, email lesterborley@waitrose.com

**Wellington Trust Diary Dates**

Although the full 2011/12 programme is yet to be confirmed, dates for the remainder of this year are:

**Monday 10 October**

Captain Adrian ‘Snowy’ White  
*Memories of TS Mercury*

**Monday 14 November**

Dr David Cordingly  
*Piracy then and now*

**Monday 12 December**

Paul Louden-Brown  
*Titanic*

For bookings contact the Business Manager on 0207 836 8179 or email info@thewellingtontrust.com. Meetings are held on board HQS Wellington, moored on the Thames across the road from Temple tube station. Timings are 18.30 for 19.00; talks usually last for an hour. They are free to all but donations are welcome. There is an option to stay for supper after the meeting – two courses and a glass of wine for £30 (£25 for Trust members)

**Books by Members**

This groundbreaking new work describes the background, creation and expansion of the BPF from its first tentative strikes, through operations off the coast of Japan to its impact on the immediate post-war period, including the opinions of USN liaison officers attached to the British flagships. The book is the first to demonstrate the real scope and scale of the BPFs impressive achievement.

This book provides a detailed picture of
the lives of the commanders and those around them both at sea and at home. It is a major contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the East Indian maritime world of the European trading companies. Price £75 reduced for SNR members to £56.25 plus p&p for orders placed by 30 September directly with the publisher Boydell Press. Members must quote the reference 11206. Address all orders and queries to Boydell and Brewer Ltd, PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3DF, UK. Tel 01394 610 600 trading@boydell.co.uk.

Susan Rose *The Wine Trade in Medieval Europe 1000–1500*, 2011, 216pp £65 now £42.25, h/b with illustrations, maps and tables ISBN 978-0826425843, Order from Charlotte Hoare, Marketing Department at Continuum, The Tower Building, 11 York road, London SE1 7NX. Telephone 020 7922 0880 or order@continuumbooks.com. Wine was one of the earliest trading commodities in western Europe and of great commercial importance. This book provides a thematic history of wine and the wine trade in the middle ages.

In the words of the English mariners and from Spanish and Portuguese records, *Tropics Bound* chronicles the hundreds of voyages to the American Tropics made between 1516–1618, from the first known engagement with Spanish cannon in Santo Domingo to the beheading of Raleigh in England.

*The Journal for Maritime Research*
The Fenland Lighter Project’s work involves both the old-time river traffic on the Ouse-Nene complex and the seagoing trade with which it cooperated. Thus, the Project has long taken an interest in the east coast trade, not least the remarkable feats of seamanship and navigation that were routinely witnessed during the hours of darkness. Moreover, the Project has often been able to introduce such matters into the field of interdisciplinary studies. Upon that theme, the present writer has recently had a paper, ‘Night in the North Sea . . .’, published in vol. 59 of the influential series ‘AMS Studies in the Eighteenth Century’ (New York, 2010). This collection, edited by Professors Serge Soupel, Kevin L. Cope and Alexander Pettit, stems from interdisciplinary conferences convened by the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris University III.

The paper mentioned centres upon a typical North Sea voyage by a sailing-collier of the 1700s, Newcastle to London, together with discussion of the coal trade’s distinctive views on the organization of crews and the design of vessels. Since the majority of those attending the Paris conferences specialized in literature rather than history – a common state of affairs at interdisciplinaries in various countries – the paper sought to link its main content with the remarks of such writers as Samuel Johnson and Daniel Defoe, with particular regard to the importance of ‘Seacoal’ to eighteenth-century London. Overall, the AMS publication seems to have aroused considerable interest, much of it in circles where maritime history rarely figures to any significant extent. At the same time, of course, there has been an opportunity to highlight the longstanding and remarkable role of the SNR.

For more on the Fenland Lighter Project see www.gla.ac.uk/~aj12x/flp.html

H.J.K. Jenkins
Swansea University Arts and Humanities department is offering an MA course in Maritime and Imperial History. This is a unique programme with no direct equivalent in the UK. The programme combines elements of local Welsh history with modules offering coverage of global themes. The MA explores a range of thematic and conceptual approaches to maritime and imperial history and involves participation in a group project. The project allows students to develop their practical skills, applying their collaborative research to the development of materials to be used in a public history and heritage context. Swansea has an extremely rich maritime tradition. The regenerated maritime quarter is home to the National Waterfront Museum which has extensive collections and state of the art facilities. The MA will draw on these resources and the specialist skills and expertise of the curatorial staff.

The full-time course structure is split across a year with three modules offered in each academic semester (a total of six modules in part one) and then a dissertation over the summer (part 2). Students study three compulsory modules, and three optional modules. The dissertation is written on a specialist research of your choosing. The MA can also be studied part time.

Topics include: Making Maritime and Imperial History; people on the move – the forging of the Portuguese Oversea World 1415 to 1808 ; Empire Slavery and Liberty in the British Atlantic World 1584 to 1808; The Maritime World of the East India Company 1757–1858; Venice and the sea; Swansea and the sea; Missionaries Missions and Colonialism in South America 1610–1768.

For further details please contact Dr Adam Mosley, History and Classics, Arts and Humanities, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, Wales, UK Telephone 44 (o) 1792 295637 and fax 44 (o) 1792 602395 email a.j.mosley@swansea.ac.uk or visit www.swansea.ac.uk/artsand humanities.

Cardiff University School of Earth and Ocean Science

Dr Hance Smith and Dr David Jenkins are supervising a course for students – The Regional Development of Maritime Heritage in the United Kingdom. The purpose is to conduct a study of maritime heritage resources and to construct a stage based narrative of maritime history with selected topic and regional studies. The methodology will start with an extensive literature review
aimed at the stage based approach together with a regional field study to construct an inventory of maritime heritage resources. The sectoral case studies will focus on themes of national and international importance. For further information contact Dr Hance Smith at smithhd@cardiff.ac.uk or at www.cardiff.ac.uk/earth/degreeprogrammes/postgraduateresearch/projects/ge09. Cardiff University, School of Earth and Ocean Science, main Building, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3YE Telephone 02920 875569

Greenwich Maritime Institute, University of Greenwich

MA Maritime History
Located in the historic setting of the Old Royal Naval College, the Greenwich Maritime Institute offers a unique environment for the study of maritime history. Taught courses focus on the Merchant Navy and the Royal Navy in the late eighteenth century; Twentieth-century International Maritime History; Sources, Methods and Archives for Maritime Historians; Twentieth-century International Naval History and Case Studies in Maritime History. Teaching is in small groups led by leading experts in the field. The staff currently include Professor Sarah Palmer, Professor Roger Knight, Dr Roger Morriss, Chris Ware, Patricia Criminmin, and Dr David Hilling. The programme is available full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years) and further information can be obtained from the Greenwich Maritime Institute, University of Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College, Park Row, Greenwich, London, SE10 9LS, UK. Tel. +44 (0)208 331 7688, email: gmi@gre.ac.uk, website www.gre.ac.uk/gmi

University of Hull

BA History with Maritime History
This BA course is designed for students wishing to specialize in maritime history, with a wide range of modules, including medieval maritime history, the Age of Discovery, piracy and privateering, seafaring in war and peace, Britain’s twentieth-century maritime interests. For further information contact Richard Gorski, details below.

PhD in Maritime History
For further information about the MA and PhD programmes and maritime history in general, contact Dr Richard Gorski, Department of History, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX, UK, email: r.c.gorski@hull.ac.uk, tel. +44 (0)1482 465183, website: www.history.hull.ac.uk
Diploma in Maritime History Diploma in Maritime History (online): This Diploma is provided on a part-time basis over four years, with learning and teaching taking place entirely online. There are two stages to the Diploma with the first comprising six maritime history modules taken over two years. This culminates in an award of a Certificate in Maritime History. Students can then progress to a Diploma which also comprises six modules over two years. The modules provided in 2011–12 are ‘The Fisheries before 1850’, ‘Trade, Shipping and Ports, c.1650–1850’ and ‘The Royal Navy in the Age of Sail’. For further information email Michaela Barnard: m.g.barnard@hull.ac.uk

University of Exeter

MA and PhD at the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies
The Centre was the first of its kind in a British university. It can call on a wide range of expertise in maritime historical studies within the university and seeks to promote research into economic, social, political, naval and environmental aspects of the British maritime past from the earliest times to the present day.

The MA in Maritime History includes modules on technology, trade, ports, exploration, mariners and fishing. The medieval and early modern module explores European maritime expansion and the creation of commercial empires.

New Members and Reported Deaths
1 March – 26 May 2011

New members – individual
Mr D. Ainslie, Dunblane
Mr C. Cartellone, Bryan, USA
Mr T. Clark, Louisville, USA
Mr P. Gladwell, Warragul, Australia
Professor D. Hein PhD, Frederick, USA
Mr C. Mallagh, Leeds
Mr K. M. Nilsen, Risor, Norway

Mr M. Roling, Zwammerdam, The Netherlands
Dr Laura Sanna, Genova, Italy
Mr J. Walters, Sleaford

Reported deaths
Mr W. Gaspard, Brussels, Belgium
Mr H. U. A. Lambert, Taunton
The Society for Nautical Research promotes and publishes research on all matters relating to seafaring, ships and shipbuilding in all periods and in all nations; on the language and customs of the sea; in fact, on any topic of nautical interest.

The SNR:
- publishes the world’s pre-eminent English-language nautical journal, The Mariner’s Mirror
- sponsors conferences, lectures and seminars on maritime historical subjects
- buys paintings and other works of art for the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich
- funds projects such as the preservation of Nelson’s flagship, HMS Victory

The Society was founded in 1910 and celebrated its centenary with a series of special events during 2010.