



THE ANCHOR

The monthly newsletter of the Houston Maritime Museum

DROP ANCHOR WITH US IN 2014

Hours of operation: Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm.

HMM Collections and Archives Intern Sets Sail on a New Course

We are sad to announce that Haya Khan's internship in Collections and Archives has ended, but we are very grateful for all the hard work she has done over the past eight weeks at HMM. During her time with us, Haya gained a tremendous amount of hands-on experience in handling and preserving museum collections items. Although she did not possess any museum experience prior to this internship, during her time at HMM, she learned how to use PastPerfect, a collection management software program, and catalog archival materials so that they are easily accessible for future use. These materials include items such as newspapers, journals, handwritten and typed letters, photographs, magazines, and postcards. Some of the items she found most fascinating included handwritten letters sent by a soldier to his wife during World War II. Although her

Model of the Month

Vasa

By: Eric Young, Docent



Vasa is a Swedish warship built over two years (1626-1628). On her maiden voyage out of Stockholm Harbor on August 10th, 1628, the ship foundered and sank after sailing about 1,300 meters. She sat in 30

experience at HMM has been brief, the skills and experience she has gained have been invaluable and eye-opening, and she is excited to apply them to wherever her academic career takes her next. She will continue to volunteer at HMM in the months to come.

Research Library and Ships Plans

Along with the models and artifacts on display, the Museum also has a Research Library. This valuable resource contains a collection of maritime books, ships plans, and periodicals. We have over one thousand volumes cataloged by author, title, and subject matter covering a wide range of topics including naval, ship building, maritime history and modeling. The plans in the collection, also cataloged for easy searching, are detailed making them useful to ship modelers. The plans include both sail and engine-powered vessels. The Research Library normally does not loan material, but for those interested in knowing more about maritime history, the Museum provides public access to our non-circulating Research Library and ships plans. No appointment is necessary.

meters of water for 333 years until she was located again in 1956. She was salvaged with a largely intact hull in 1961, and moved to the Vasa Museum in Stockholm where remains one of Sweden's most popular tourist attractions and has been seen by over 30 million visitors.

Armed primarily with bronze cannons cast in Stockholm specifically for the ship, it was richly decorated as a symbol of the king's ambitions and when completed was one of the most powerfully armed vessels in the world. However, the Vasa was dangerously unstable due to too much weight in the upper structure of the hull. Stories say the king requested the second deck of cannons which was added without proper adjustments to the beam, hull shape, and ballast. Ordered to sea by the impatient king away in battle, she was launched with ports open, guns run out and sails unfurled by the king's subordinates, who lacked the political courage to frankly discuss the ship's structural problems or have the maiden voyage postponed. Vasa foundered only a few minutes after she first encountered a wind stronger than a breeze.

Since her recovery, the Vasa has become a widely recognized symbol of the Swedish "great power period" under King Gustavus Adolphus. She and her artifacts have provided scholars with invaluable insight into details of naval warfare, shipbuilding techniques and everyday life in early 17th-century Sweden. Using polyethyleneglycol, she is the largest single item ever archaeologically preserved. She is also a monument to the problems of technological change and, according to the stories, a lesson in the fear we have of "telling truth to power" particularly when it is absolute.

August Lecture Series

HISTORY LECTURE

Maritime Heritage Rediscovered: The Legacy of Sea Transport &

Logistics from Prehistory to Modern Days
with Prof. Maria Burns

Tuesday, August 12, 2014
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Can history help us forecast America's future? Which are the patterns and leveraging powers that determine a nation's global leadership? Since their inception millennia ago, sea transport and logistics practices have shaped the history of mankind, via the global exchange of commodities and the use of technologies, military strategies, sciences, languages, cultures and rules. This distinctive presentation by Prof. Maria G. Burns, reveal stunning discoveries of the influences that have spawned the modern innovations in maritime and logistics, from prehistory to date.

More information can be found at [Houston Maritime Museum Lecture Series](#)



HOUSTON MARITIME MUSEUM

HISTORY LECTURE

WHO: Prof. Maria Burns

WHAT: Maritime Heritage Rediscovered: The Legacy of Sea Transport & Logistics from Prehistory to Modern Days

WHEN: Tuesday, August 12
7:00-8:00 PM

WHERE: Houston Maritime Museum
2204 Dorrington
Houston, TX 77030

HOW: The Houston Maritime Museum offers a free history lecture each month

INFO: Contact Kristin Josvoll at
713.666.1910
or kjosvoll@houstonmaritimemuseum.org

Free admission and refreshments

HoustonMaritimeMuseum.org

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Maria G. Burns is the Director for the Center for Logistics & Transportation Policy, University of Houston. She serves as Chair of Education for the Houston Maritime Museum, and is an Honorary Member of the US Coast Guard Auxilliary.

Upcoming History Lectures

September 9, 2014

Visions of the Port of Houston: Past, Present, and Future with Judith Ann Saks

October 14, 2014

Monterrey Shipwrecks with Amy Borgens & Fritz Hanselmann

November 11, 2014

History of the Houston Ship Channel with Eric Young

February 10, 2015

Civil War Blockaders with Andrew Hall

Special Thanks to our Generous Lecture Sponsors



Interested in ship modeling? Join the Gulf Coast Ship Modelers Society every second Saturday of an odd-numbered month from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Houston Maritime Museum.

Click [GCSMS at HMM](#) for more info!

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