

Information for the EMH website

Corrosion of Historic Ships ó Conference in 2011

The 4 mast barque Pommern in Mariehamn on the Åland Islands has recently undergone a thorough repair on a local shipyard. The work was preceded by a rather agitated debate on riveting versus welding in riveted constructions. Mariehamn still dominated by maritime ventures and cherishing its maritime traditions, is perhaps the only place in the world where the opinion columns of the daily newspapers for months on end debate the pros and cons of methods to preserve a museum ship. A private citizen conducted a survey of methods to prevent and combat corrosion in historic ships. It comprised some thirty ships world wide and views of a number of independent experts. One of the outcomes of the survey was a report, Corrosion of Historic Ships, and now a conference on that same topic.

The Pommern being its most valuable symbol, the Town of Mariehamn has decided to arrange an international conference on corrosion of historic ships. The conference will be part of the celebrations of the town's 150th birthday in September 2011. One of the co-organizers is the Åland Maritime Museum another is the Forum Marinum maritime quarters of Turku in mainland Finland. Turku will be the Cultural Capital of Europe that year. Forum Marinum has several museum ships including the fully rigged ship the Suomen Joutsen ex. Laënnec, ex. Oldenburg. According to current plans the conference will begin in Mariehamn with a reception aboard the Pommern on the 5th of September and it will end in Turku on the 9th of September. The afternoon and early evening of the 7th of September will be spent aboard one of the large Baltic ferries taking the participants to Turku. Aboard the ship is a session on corrosion prevention and ship husbandry on modern merchant ships and excursions. Naturally there will be good food and a possibility to view a good number of the 20,000 islands between Mariehamn and Turku.

The organizers would appreciate advance, non-committing notifications from potential participants. Those expressing their interest will be put on the mailing list and receive detailed information in due course. This is also a call for papers. Those interested should at this stage present a short synopsis only of the proposed paper in digital form.

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