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Newsletter February 2018

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2018.

This issue includes a report from Stig Tenold on a special memorial seminar held in honour of Skip Fischer at King's College, London, on 19 April. Two obituaries of Skip, one by Gelina Harlaftis and another by Jaap Bruijn, are also included.

The IMHA has decided to honour Skip's achievements by publishing a collection of short pieces within one of the next issues of IJMH. Please see the details later in the Newsletter. The executive has also agreed to rename the Helge Norvik Lecture as the Fischer-Norvik Lecture. This reflects the pioneering role and close partnership between these two founders of the IMHA.

I recently heard about another sad loss to the profession. Bill Wray, well known for his research on Japanese business and industrial history, especially shipping and trading companies, passed away on October 20, 2017. A newspaper obituary is included in this Newsletter.

Now for some happy news! In April, I was delighted to attend a symposium to mark the opening of the new Centre for Maritime History at Rethymno, Crete. The Director, Professor Gelina Harlaftis, has succeeded in attracting substantial funding for the new Centre, an impressive feat in a time of financial stringency. I was greatly impressed by the number and quality of contributions by younger scholars, which bodes well for the future of maritime history in Greece. Details of the symposium, which was dedicated to the memory of Skip Fischer, are provided later in this Newsletter.

The situation with regard to our website is, unfortunately, a little confusing. Google searches will sometimes lead to our old site, which is still accessible despite our attempts to get the company that ran it to close it down. The current website is <https://imha.info/>.

I remind members that the 2018 memberships are now overdue and if you have not already done so, can you please renew at <http://shop.hull.ac.uk/product-catalogue/faculty-of-arts-social-sciences/history-department>.

I would like to thank Dr Ian Chambers for his help with producing this newsletter. Ian is a retired historian who has long provided valuable editorial assistance with the publication of the Australian journal, *The Great Circle*.

Remember our Newsletter depends on members supplying us with their news so keep the contributions coming.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions for improving or contributing to the IMHA.

From the President
Professor Malcolm Tull

In Memoriam Skip Fischer (1946-2018)

On February 11, in St John's Newfoundland, Dr. Lewis R. Fischer died at the age of 71. He was better known as Skip Fischer, as his father used to call him in his youth. In our country, Skip is not a well-known maritime historian, but he is in the Anglo-Saxon world and far beyond. Without any hesitation, I call him the most important and influential man in the field of maritime history in the past three to four decades.

Skip Fischer was born in New York, studied at the State University of New York at Albany, at York University and the University of Toronto. For 40 years, he was attached to the Memorial University of Newfoundland at St John's. There he worked on the large North Atlantic Shipping Project based on tens of thousands of crew lists of the British merchant navy in the 19th century, which the British archives had disposed of. The quantitative approach required for this project became Skip's trademark. He developed into the great connoisseur of North Atlantic trade and shipping from the late 18th to the late 20th century. Skip thought about borders and seas. He set up the International Journal of Maritime History in 1989, which has now started its thirtieth year. For many years, Skip was editor-in-chief and together with his partner, Maggie Hennessey, he invested a huge amount of time, knowledge and energy in the content and appearance of the journal. Later he led the development of the series Research in Maritime History.

Skip was beyond doubt the best-informed maritime historian of his generation. He enjoyed to the fullest encounters, discussions and debates at conferences, symposia and workshops, often organized by him in Japan, Australia, Amsterdam or Ghent. He lectured at many universities and discussed comfortably and enthusiastically research plans. He had strong ties with Norway and especially with researchers at the university in Bergen. In 2005, the University of Liverpool granted him an honorary doctorate and in 2012 three foreign colleagues edited a Festschrift for him. Those who knew Skip have the memory of an analytical but also warm and inspiring personality. Less well known perhaps is that Skip was also a disc jockey in his younger years!

Jaap R. Bruijn

Hendrik Kraemerpark 25

2341 GT Oegstgeest

The Netherlands

Email: Bruijn_Oegstgeest@planet.nl

Source: Translated from the Dutch version published in Tijdschrift voor Zeegeschiedenis.

Skip- A Memorial

The late Skip Fischer often emphasized the importance of the international dimension in maritime history. He travelled widely and frequently, and spent long periods doing research in Australia, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom, among other places. Most important was the UK, which became a “second home” away from Newfoundland. In 2005 Skip received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Liverpool in recognition of his immense contribution to maritime history scholarship.

Skip travelled a lot to the UK, for research and to visit friends. He was a big supporter of the British Commission for Maritime History and a frequent participant at the King’s Maritime History Seminars. On 19 April, a memorial was held at King’s College, London, to honour his contribution to maritime history and to share personal memories of him.

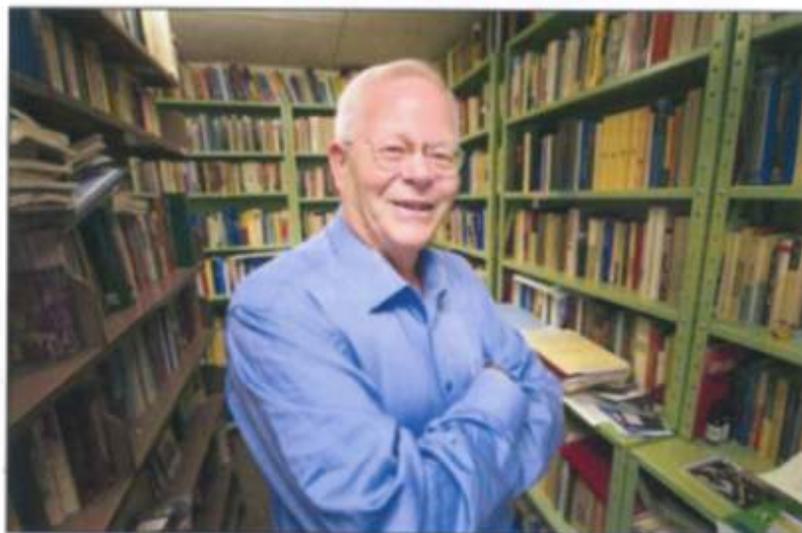
Andrew Lambert, of King’s, welcomed the participants. Then Hugh Murphy, who had taken the initiative to the memorial, read apologies and gave a short introduction to Skip, his life and his importance for maritime history. This was followed by touching video-messages from Skip’s three children, Jeremy, Rebecca and Karen. Personal messages were read from Peter Davies, Professor Emeritus at the University of Liverpool, and Skip’s partner, Maggie Hennessey, both of whom were unable to attend.

One aim of the event was to share memories of Skip. Pam Armstrong, Maria Fusaro, Sarah Palmer, Robb Robinson, Jo Stanley, David Williams and Stig Tenold contributed with their stories and experiences. Pam Armstrong had also made a pamphlet containing photographs from Skip’s life – both at the personal and professional stage – illustrating the many relationships formed over a long career.

The event became a fitting and moving tribute to the man who probably more than any other has helped create and shape the international community of maritime historians.

Professor Stig Tenold
Norwegian school of Economics
Bergen
Norway

SPECIAL MEMORIES



Cover of pamphlet presented at the memorial seminar held in honour of Skip Fischer at King’s College, London, on 19 April 2018

An appreciation/reflection on how Skip has influenced your way as a maritime historian



Photo courtesy of Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dear Colleagues,

Without any doubt, Lewis (Skip) Fischer has not only shaped our discipline, but also influenced the professional development of most maritime historians throughout recent decades.

Many of us had the honour to call him a friend and probably nearly all of us benefited from his collegial support regardless if we were PhD students, museum curators or senior faculty at universities all around the globe.

It is by no means an exaggeration to say that Skip has shaped the field of maritime history and that our interactions with him were part of this process.

In honour of Skip's achievements and in reflection on how he shaped our discipline and us we would like to run a collection of short pieces within one of the next issues of IJMH. These texts (up to a maximum of 500 words) should not be a traditional eulogy/condolence but an appreciation/reflection on how Skip has influenced your way as a maritime historian and how he has helped to define your specific sub-field of maritime history. The total collection will not only be a collaborative appreciation of a dearly missed colleague, but also a reflection on the development of our discipline at large.

Please note that while we are aiming to be as inclusive as possible, due to page limitations for this project we might need to select among the contributions received. If we are unable to include your full text in the collection, we will mention your name as being part of the project and will try to include at least a short quote from each contributor.

Please submit your contribution of a maximum 500 words by 31st July 2018 to IMHA's Secretary Ingo Heidbrink (iheidbri@odu.edu), who will also serve as the coordinator and editor for this project.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Tull and Ingo Heidbrink
on behalf of the IMHA Executive

For Skip by Gelina

At the end of my first year as a Ph.D. student in Oxford, in 1984, my co-supervisor Professor Peter Davies, whom I had already met several times in Liverpool, told me I had to attend a Maritime History Conference at Greenwich Maritime Museum with the theme “The Shipowner in History”. In the conference amphitheatre I sat next to a very pleasant and outgoing young man who seemed to make excellent and perceptive questions; his name was Frank Broeze. We were attending the vivacious and provocative presentation of an easy-going American in blue jeans and red plaid shirt; his name was Lewis R. Fischer whom everybody called Skip. On the suggestion of Peter Davies, Skip Fischer wrote to me a couple of years later, in 1986, to ask me if I could discuss the possibility of writing a book -after the completion of my thesis- in a series he had organised with Routledge on national shipping histories. He wanted me to write the history of Greek shipping. I was, naturally, thrilled to be trusted with such a task. But I was also in awe; could I do this? Fischer was on sabbatical, at Bergen, Norway and I travelled there to meet him. During our discussions, Skip was all encouragement and inspiration. And with his usual and peculiar enthusiastic way always with the right doses of dry humour persuaded me that I could do it, so I accepted.

Meeting Skip Fischer in Norway, was a landmark in my academic life. He was the one to trust me instantly, to make me understand the breadth of maritime history, to immediately recruit me on board even before the completion of my studies, and make me an equal partner of the crew of international scholars in the voyages of maritime history. He became a friend, a collaborator, a colleague, a mentor to whom I owe more than I could ever put on a paper or utter in front of any person. For the first decade of my career I survived academically largely due to him and the other valuable friends of IMEHA. Skip was there to support me in every step, to write recommendation letters to my “wise” Greek historian colleagues, deeply suspicious of such a weird subject, (maritime history?) to listen to my agonies, to encourage, to direct, to give me more and more opportunities, to challenge and provoke my abilities. An engine of work, devotion and ceaseless enthusiasm for maritime history, he has been the model upon which I have tried to build my career, to support, to encourage my own students. Skip was not easy person. For some not even a likeable person. In the last decade he became quite forgetful too. But he was an extraordinary man and on the height of his strength, an incredible source of energy and inspiration.

On 25-26 April 2018 we inaugurated the new Centre for Maritime History in Crete, in the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in the Foundation of Research and Technology-Hellas in Greece with a Symposium “What is Maritime History?”. For me this was long-long term goal. A goal, inspired by Skip. He was supposed to be there. He planned to come but then he did not make it. But I know he was happy for this beginning of a new Centre for Maritime History by the Greeks in the Mediterranean.

Professor Gelina Harlaftis, Director
Institute for Mediterranean Studies
Foundation of Research and Technology - Hellas
Melissinou & Nikiforou Foka 130,
P.O. Box. 119
Rethymno 74100, Crete, Greece

‘8th World Committee of Maritime Culture Institutes (WCMCI) International Conference’ at the Korea Maritime University in Busan, South Korea.



In March 2018, I attended the “8th World Committee of Maritime Culture Institutes (WCMCI) International Conference” at the Korea Maritime University in Busan, South Korea. The conference theme was “Retrospect and Prospect of 10 Years’ Cultural Interaction Studies of Sea Port Cities”. There were five main sessions:

SESSION I Case Study of Seaport Cities in East Asia

SESSION II Maritime Territorial Disputes

SESSION III New Perspectives and Methodology of the Seaport City Studies

SESSION IV Trends and Issues in Marine History

SESSION V Maritime History and Cultural Interaction

While many of the papers were in Korean, it was clear that maritime research on Asia is thriving. The conference was well organised and supported by the Korean Maritime University. Some of the earlier output of the Korean researchers has been published in Jeong Moon-su et al. *The Maritime Silk Road and Seaport Cities* (Sunin Publishing, Seoul, 2015). Naturally, I handed out IMHA membership forms and encouraged delegates to consider sending their research to IJMH!

Malcolm Tull



Emeritus Professor Bill Wray

Obituary from *Vancouver Sun*, 23 October 2017

William ("Bill") Dalton Wray, April 14, 1943 - October 20, 2017.

After a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease, it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bill Wray on October 20, 2017, at the age of 74. Bill passed away peacefully in his sleep at Vancouver General Hospital.

Bill is survived by his loving wife Tokuko, daughter Sheila (Keith), son Anthony (Brenna), grandchildren Rebecca and Katie, and former wife Beth.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba to Frank and Lilian Wray, Bill attended the University of Manitoba, later going on to earn his Ph.D. in History from Harvard University. In 1978, he moved to Vancouver where he taught Japanese history as a professor at UBC for 33 years.

Bill will be remembered by his friends and family for his love of baseball and the Boston Red Sox, as well as his enjoyment in jogging and walking, his fondness of Tofino and Chesterman Beach, and his disposition towards mangoes, kiwis, and all things chocolate.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes charitable donations in Bill's name to the Alzheimer's Society of BC.

Source: <http://www.history.ubc.ca/content/history-department-mourns-loss-emeritus-professors-bill-wray-bob-kubicek-and-john-conway> (accessed on May 18, 2018).

Dalian Maritime University is looking for both full-time and part-time
Maritime History & Culture Researcher



Qualifications:

Doctor degree majored in Maritime history/culture/civilization/ocean culture. Associate professor or above will be a plus.

Unique perspective on maritime history and culture research

Ability to fulfill teaching tasks and research projects as required by the school

Good command of English or Native English speaker, understand Chinese will be a plus.

Good time management and team work spirit

We offer:

Free accommodation with University-standard Foreign Expert Apartment

Nice and harmonious working environment

Competitive compensation package including after-tax salary, bonus, home trip, medical and accidental insurance etc.

2-3 years working contract for fulltime researcher, can be renewed; 2-3 months per year for part-time researcher.

How to apply:

Pls. send your updated CV to Qing Han, Director of Maritime History & Culture Research Center, Dalian Maritime University. E-mail address: hanqing@dlnu.edu.cn



**Associate Prof. of KMOU, BSc, BA, MA, PhD and Master
Mariner**



Dr S. June KIM is an associate professor of Korea Maritime and Ocean University and master mariner. After onboarding merchant marine for 3 years, he studied history at Korea University in Seoul from 1993 to 2002 in which he got a doctorate on English shipping industry during the industrial revolution. He worked at the maritime museum in Korea Maritime University from 2002 to 2007, at Korea Branch School of Netherlands Shipping and Transport College from 2007 to 2009, at MMU from 2012 to 2017, and finally joined KMOU in October in 2017. He is interested in a history of English shipping, a history of navigation and a maritime history. He published several books on maritime field including *Origin of Maritime English*(Korean), *Maritime History according to Maritime Movies*(Korean), *Industrial Revolution and Shipping Industry*(Doctoral Dissertation, Korean), *A History of European Exploration*(Korean), *A History of European Ship and Navigation*(Korean), and *A History of Korean Ship and Navigation*(Korean). He also published several research papers including *The Retrospect of the Development of the Korean Shipping Industry, 1910-1950*(*The Asian Journal of Shipping and Logistics*, Vol. 27, No. 1(co-author), 2011), *A State-run Enterprise : a Bane or a Boon? A Case on the Korean Shipping Corporation, 1950-1968*(*Asian Journal of Shipping and Logistics*, Vol.31, No.3, 2015), and *A Critical Review on Alexander von Humboldt's Argument on the mariner's compass*(June, 2017).

**International Postgraduate Port and Maritime Studies Network
Annual Conference, Maritime Historical Studies Centre,
University of Hull, 25-26th July 2018**

Date: July 25, 2018 to July 26, 2018

**Location:
United Kingdom**

Studying the history of port cities and their relationship to maritime endeavour and enterprise is a diverse and interdisciplinary practise, which draws on research methods from literary studies, sociology, anthropology and archaeology, and brings together aspects of social, economic and cultural history. In July 2018, the Centre for Port and Maritime History will hold its annual postgraduate conference at the University of Hull.

Keynote Speakers:

- *Professor David J. Starkey (University of Hull)*
- *Dr Jo Stanley (Liverpool John Moores University / University of Hull)*

The aim of this two-day conference is to bring together postgraduates and early career researchers of **any discipline who incorporate port and maritime studies into their research**, with a historical focus. We hope that this event will encourage postgraduate students to become part of the vibrant research community brought together by the International Postgraduate Port and Maritime Studies Network. As this network is international, we particularly invite proposals from researchers working at institutions outside of the UK.

Possible themes, are not limited to, but may include:

- Urban culture in port towns and cities
- Literary representations of ports and maritime endeavour
- The economics of trade and commerce by sea
- The social and economic impact of naval warfare
- Crime and deviancy at sea and on shore
- Shipbuilding, navigation and maritime instruments

We welcome proposals for both 20 minute papers, and for panels of three papers. Abstracts of 250 words along with a short biographical note should be sent to **Siobhan Hearne** and **David Wilson** at ippmsn@outlook.com by 5pm (GMT) on **Monday 14th May 2018**.

See <https://ippmsn.wordpress.com> for more details.

Contact Info:

Siobhan Hearne and **David Wilson** at ippmsn@outlook.com

**Centre of Maritime History, First Symposium, 25-26 April 2018,
Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Rethymnon, Crete, Greece**

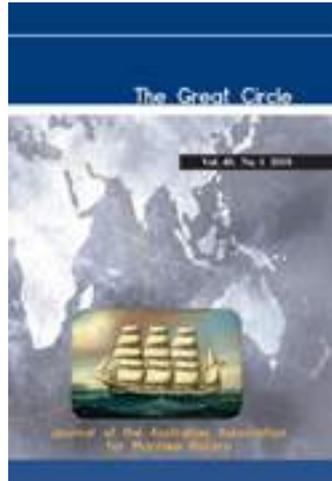


This symposium is to inaugurate the new Centre of Maritime History of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies and it is meant to bring together some of the members of the group of Maritime Historians that have marked the path of Maritime History in the last forty years. Professor Lewis R. (Skip) Fischer (1946-2018) was one of the “patriarchs” of Maritime History and paved the way of its organization worldwide since the 1980s. He had looked very much forward to this meeting but unfortunately, he passed away on 11 February 2018. We have thus decided to dedicate this First Academic Meeting to him, hoping to continue his work from this part of the world.

The Centre of Maritime History of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation of Research and Technology - Hellas is based in Rethymnon, Crete, Greece. The aim of the Centre is to expand research on a broad range of topics of Maritime History, related to the areas of the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and beyond, having the global, interdisciplinary and comparative studies in the epicenter. The Centre provides the necessary resources for young and experienced scholars to carry out their research in a stimulating and encouraging environment. Among these resources are: a) Digital data bases and archives, b) a specialized library, and c) a very cohesive and experienced group of researchers working in Maritime History. Furthermore, the Centre devotes funding resources to attract talented PhD students who are willing to pursue research on maritime history. The Centre aims to organize as well workshops, conferences and lectures in order to provide academic meetings at a regular basis and opportunities for scholars to discuss research problems and questions and exchange ideas for further research development.

Source: Symposium Programme.

Great Circle 40, No. 1, out now



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About the IMHA Newsletter

The IMHA Newsletter is published by the International Maritime History Association (IMHA) with the aim of promoting maritime history globally and strengthening collaboration between maritime researchers. The Newsletter features brief news on upcoming conferences, book releases, scholarships, job announcements etc. within the field of maritime history. The Newsletter appears several times per year.

All scholars who wish to make announcements to colleagues about maritime history issues are encouraged to do so through the IMHA Newsletter. If you have news that you would like to share, please provide this by email to Malcolm Tull at M.Tull@murdoch.edu.au