



Cutty Sark 150th anniversary conference

**Global trade, global lives: the maritime community
since the nineteenth century**

Thursday and Friday, 6-7 February 2020
Lecture Theatre, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich



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2019 marked 150 years since the launch of *Cutty Sark*. Over her long life, the ship has formed part of Britain's vast merchant fleet, and later provided the setting for training new generations of mariners. *Cutty Sark* now stands as a memorial to the Merchant Navy and a national museum site, shaping how we understand maritime trade and the human experience of being at sea.

Built for the China tea trade, *Cutty Sark* would go onto trade in Australian wool before becoming a Portuguese general cargo carrier. More than 600 men from over 30 different nations served on the ship which would also visit nearly every major port in the world. Today, as the sole surviving extreme clipper ship on the globe, she is a representative of international trade, maritime communities, the merchant marine in the age of sail as well as the subject of innumerable cultural interpretations and much more beyond.

This conference will take the opportunity offered by *Cutty Sark's* 150th anniversary to provide a forum for interdisciplinary research and new perspectives on the merchant marine and maritime communities from the nineteenth century to the present day.

Draft programme

Thursday, 6 February

- 09.30-10.00 **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00-10.45 Welcome and opening remarks
Reflections on 150 years of the Cutty Sark. After 35 years in ship owning: was the Cutty Sark a good investment?
Paddy Rodgers, Director, Royal Museums Greenwich
- 10.45-11.30 *150 years of change in the merchant service: yesterday, today and tomorrow viewed from the deck of the Cutty Sark*
Graeme Tipp MRSC FIM
- 11.30-12.00 **Coffee and tea**
- 12.00-13.30 **Personal Experiences**
How the 6-Day War opened doors for women seafarers - Dr Nina Baker, engineering historian
Diverse perspectives: the experience of a black deck officer - Remi Kapo
Britain's deep sea rescue tugs: the biggest untold story of WWII - Jim Radford, Peace and Social Action Campaigner and folk singer
- 13.30-14.30 **Lunch**
- 14.30-16.00 **Family history and life on board**
Chief Officer Sleggs and the last voyage of Islamount
Elizabeth Allen, Clyde Maritime Trust, Tallship Glenlee

Challenging authority in the nineteenth-century merchant marine: the true story behind a family myth
Dr Allison Baxter, Oxford Brookes University

'So nauseous no person could eat it': incompetent cooks and diet on board ship in the 1860s
Matthew Taylor
- 16.00-16.30 **Coffee and tea**
- 16.30-17.30 **Keynote lecture**
Mx Jack tar: gender, sex, power and seafaring women, from Cutty Sark to Scarlet Lady
Dr Jo Stanley FRHistS, FRSA, AssocRINA
- 17.45-19.30 Drinks reception *Cutty Sark Dry Berth*

Friday, 7 February

09.30-10.00 **Arrival and refreshments**

10.00-11.30 **Other ships and changes in shipbuilding**

Global stories: the people of the SS Great Britain
Nick Booth, Head of Collections, SS Great Britain Trust

HMS Belfast's Long Goodbye: the return of a global traveller, March-June 1962
Nigel Steel, Head of Narrative and Content, HMS Belfast

Global trade and global lives: the merchant navy since the nineteenth century
Mark Hoskin, SOAS London

11.30-12.00 **Coffee and tea**

12.00-13.00 **Session 4: Contemporary shipping**

The return of sail cargo
Gareth Maeer, Director, Raybel Charters and member of
Sail Cargo Alliance

Why is the global shipping industry returning to wind power?

Laura Boon, Royal Museums Greenwich

13.00 Closing remarks and departure



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Cost:
£50 (full) | £40 (concessions)

To register your interest please contact research@rmg.co.uk

Online bookings for the conference will open on Monday, 20 January
2020.