



Cutty Sark 150<sup>th</sup> 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* 150<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:research@rmg.co.uk)

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