

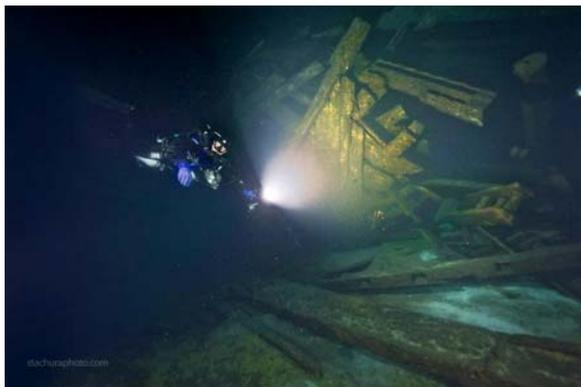
2nd November 2013

Venue: Langstone Conference Centre, Langstone Campus, University of Portsmouth,
Furze Lane, Portsmouth.



Speaker Abstracts / Biographies

Dr Johan Rönby, Södertörn University - *Mars the Miraculous. The Investigation of a legendary Baltic shipwreck from 1564.*



After years of searching, the well-preserved remains of the Swedish king Erik XIV's flagship "Mars the Miraculous" was found 2011 in the central Baltic at 70 meters depth. This large renaissance royal naval ship (2000 ton) went down in battle in May 1564.

The new find gives insight both in contemporary shipbuilding and military strategy during a period of great change. It reveals not only the ship as a principal tool of European state building, but more generally as both manifestation and agent of social change.

The dramatic wreck site also opens up symbolic, mental and psychological aspects associated with warfare in general and human behaviour in such situations. The ongoing investigation of the wrecks is a unique cooperation between several academic institutions and private companies. Besides the archaeological and historical study the project also involves development of new techniques for underwater recording, exhibitions and an international TV production.

Dr Damien Robinson, Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology - *Ship 43 and the graveyard in the central basin of Thonis-Heracleion, Egypt*



This paper will investigate a cluster of at least seven ships found during the survey of the central basin of the port of Thonis-Heracleion by the European Institute for Underwater Archaeology, under the direction of Franck Goddio. The ships all appear to be roughly of the same date and were deposited at the same time in a large ship graveyard. The simultaneous abandonment and deposition of so many vessels was a purposeful action that would have radically altered the local topography of the port and the ways in which the central basin may have been used. The graveyard would have hindered or even prevented access to the port from the Northern Channel, which linked it to the



River Nile and Mediterranean Sea beyond. Using the current excavations of ship 43 by a team from the University of Oxford as an entryway into understanding the formation processes involved in the creation of this graveyard, the paper will investigate the reasons behind the abandonment of so many vessels in one place and offer a two possible interpretations for this action: as blockships against the threat of Persian invasion, or as part of a land reclamation scheme.

Images: Christoph Gerigk © Franck Goddio/Hilti Foundation

Ryan Harris, Parks Canada, Underwater Archaeology Service, Ottawa - *The Wreck of HMS Investigator at 74° North*



In July 2010, Parks Canada undertook a marine remote-sensing survey in the Northwest Territories to locate the wreck of HMS Investigator, one of the first two ships to be sent by the Royal Navy in search of the ill-fated Sir John Franklin Expedition of 1845. Credited with identifying the final missing link in the elusive Northwest Passage, the Investigator's crew, led by Commander Robert McClure, was ultimately forced to abandon their vessel in 1853 after spending two harrowing winters beset in the ice-choked confines of Mercy Bay. After a brief search using towed side-scan sonar, the wreck was discovered in close proximity to its reported position of abandonment.

Returning to the site a year later, Parks Canada completed over 100 dives on the wreck to assess its structural integrity and inventory its associated artefacts. Site mapping employed a variety of complementary techniques including manual recording, acoustic imaging, and stereo-photogrammetric modelling. A select number of recovered artefacts are presented, with particular emphasis on the challenge of finds handling in a remote Arctic location as well as recent discoveries that have arisen in the course of laboratory analysis and conservation.

Martin Read, University of Plymouth - *Probably the Best Excavation Archive in the World, Nearly*



The Cattewater Wreck was first discovered forty years ago on 20 June 1973 and became the first wreck to be protected by the UK Government. Believed to be an unidentified early Tudor armed merchant ship, the wreck was surveyed and partially excavated in 1976-8. Through funding by English Heritage, the long term care and management of the remaining excavation archive, held by Plymouth City Museum since the early 1980s, has recently been improved. Research using modern tools and techniques has also been applied to elements of the archive, such as stable isotope analysis of the fish remains and a re-examination of the ceramic assemblage, allowing new interpretations of the site to be made.

Matt Skelhorn, MoD Salvage & Marine Operations - *RFA Darkdale, Investigating a World War II tanker torpedoed off St Helena*



The Darkdale was a Royal Fleet Auxilliary tanker that in late 1941 was lying just off Jamestown, St Helena. The tanker was refuelling passing RN vessels engaged in convoy escort and anti-raider patrols. The Darkdale was in an exposed position but, at that time, it was believed that U-Boats were incapable of acting so far south into the Atlantic. Unfortunately this was not the case and the ship was torpedoed by U-68 in October 1941 with the loss of 41 of her crew.

The wreck lies in two parts in shallow waters and, following a significant release of oil from her surviving tanks in 2010, S&MO were called in to evaluate the condition of the wreck, the amount of oil remaining on her and the potential environmental impact of this oil escaping. In addition, the opportunity was taken to research the historical background to the story and to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the wreck site.

Prof Robert Stone, University of Birmingham - *Virtual Reality and Maritime Heritage - Opportunities and Challenges*



Professor Bob Stone is the Director of the Human Interface Technologies (HIT) Team at the University of Birmingham. A Chartered Psychologist, Bob joined academia in 2003, after a successful career in defence, robotics, surgical simulation and Virtual Reality (VR). He was involved in defence human factors research with British Aerospace for 9 years, including projects for the offshore oil and gas industry, the nuclear industry, NASA and the European Space Agency. In 1989 Bob established the UK's first industrial VR team at the National Advanced Robotics Research Centre, eventually launched as VR Solutions Ltd in the mid-1990s.

His research covers human-centred design and evaluation methodologies for projects as varied as close-range weapons training and physical/psychological rehabilitation to submarine safety and rescue, improvised explosive device search/disposal training and unmanned vehicle control.

Bob's VR team is also active in non-defence applications of serious games, including industrial and maritime heritage. His VR, Human Factors and robotics work has received numerous awards, including the 2006/2007 Ergonomics Society's Sir Frederic Bartlett Award, the highest award given by that Society to an individual, and the MoD Chief Scientific Adviser's Commendation for contribution to science and technology in defence in 2011. Bob is a member of the UK's Simulation & Synthetic Environments National Technical Committee, an Academician of the Russian Higher Education Academy of Sciences and an Honorary Cossack!