

Secretary's Report for the year 2012



Headlines

EMH was represented in the Joint Working Group on the harmonisation of safety regulation on European inland waterways (the 'River Rhine rules') on behalf of the operators of traditional vessels operating on these waters. Its officers worked to strengthen relations with EU institutions and with Europa Nostra. EMH President Per Jessing was active in organising the European Maritime Day events in Gothenburg. We were strongly represented at the second meeting of the International Historic & Traditional Ships Panel in Bristol, and contributed throughout the year by email and Skype to its Working Groups on registration of traditional vessels and on regulating their safe use. The EMH Working Group considered the impact on traditional ship operation of the Maritime Labour Convention which was steadily gaining enough support to achieve international application.

The year round

The Executive Committee maintained regular contact by email and telephone conferences, and met in Lübeck on 8 December by invitation of *Museumhafen zu Lübeck*. EMH provided speakers at meetings of other international organisations, viz:

Joint Working Group on Inland Navigation, Strasbourg, 7 March *Hendrik Boland & Dörte Münstermann*

Sail Training International Class A Forum, Copenhagen 19 April, *Hendrik Boland & Paul van Ommen*

Historic Sailing Ship Assn *I Venturieri*, Chioggia, May *Theodo Fruithof*

Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums, Istanbul 28-29 May, *John Robinson*

Icelandic Traditional Boat Festival, Husavik, (Nordic Council of Ministers) 19-20 July *Per-Inge Lindqvist & John Robinson*.

Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums, Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage, l'Escala 14-15 Sep *John Robinson*

International Ship & Boat Archaeology conference, Amsterdam, 7-12 October *Theodo Fruithof*

International conference on 'Maritime Heritage as an Economic Driver', Cardiff County Council, 18-19 October, *Xabier Agote, Dragana Ratkovic & John Robinson*.

Baltic Sail symposium, Gdansk 7-9 November, *Hendrik Boland & Per Jessing*

Sail Training International Class A forum, Riga, 14-18 November *Hendrik Boland*.

In January 2012 a small delegation from EMH travelled to Piraeus in support of a Greek initiative to set up a new national umbrella organisation (*Proteas*) for traditional ship owners, which was accepted as a Regional member of EMH. Subsequently we responded to various appeals for advice from Greece.

The President and Vice President travelled to Brussels to meet Richard Mason, Policy Officer for Maritime Safety at the European Commission's DG Move.

Working Group.

By invitation of *Sequana*, the EMH Working Group met in the *Musée Fournaise, Ile des Impressionists*, at Chatou on the River Seine on 24 March. Fifteen participants discussed in detail a consultation paper on a future strategy for EMH. The Group acknowledged shortcomings in our communications, and recommended wider use of an electronic bulletin board, consistent with our reliance on volunteer posting of new information on the Internet. Social networks like LinkedIn and Twitter were also considered a useful tool in communicating with a younger audience.

The SC monitored the developments of the Committee on safe Seas (COSS), the revision of European Directive 2009/45 for passenger ships on domestic voyages as well the consequences of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC).

The EMH Newsletter came out once and was distributed by post and by email. Since this year the layout is done in Denmark and printing and distribution from the office in the Netherlands.

The Website is still of great benefit as a source for news, forthcoming congresses and maritime events. EMH has started also accounts for social media like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

The contact list has grown to 1850 addresses in 46 countries. The EMH newsletter is distributed to 1150 contacts by post and 700 by email. Continues work to find out emailaddresses instead of postaddresses to reduce the post costs. Marianne de Zwart assisted again in many office tasks, like regular and financial administration.

The contributors in 2012 Eight National members (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom) and two regional members (Galicia and Greece)formed the base of our work.

Sixteen Advisory members supported the EMH. The maritime museums in Antwerp, Paris, Bremerhaven, Klaipeda, Amsterdam, Enkhuizen, Rotterdam, Seixal, Stockholm / Karlskrona, Barcelona and San Sebastian.

The Skibsbevaringsfonden of Denmark supported our work and two Ship Preservation Centres in Norway from: Bredasholmen and Norheimsund. We welcomed the Museu de Marinha in Lisbon.

There were ten Associate members: Sammenslutningen af Mindre Erhvervsfartøjern (SME) of Denmark, the Estonian Association of Historical Ships, Portuguese Association for Maritime Heritage (APPM), Icelandic Association of Maritime Museums, Forbundet Kysten from Norway, STS General Zaruski from Poland, Sail Training International (STI), Baltic Sail/Hanse Sail Rostock (including 6 Baltic port/event organisers) and Goélette Gross-Île from Canada. Albaolo, the Basque Maritime Heritage Society is welcomed as new Associate member.

EMH continued its membership of Europa Nostra, International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM) and Association of Maritime Museums in the Mediterranean (AMMM).

Timo Schubert is still the EMH EU strategic advisor in Brussels (ADSInsight)

EMH is an NGO where the work is done by volunteers in an international playground. Thanks to all these people EMH is still playing an important role in the European and even worldwide heritage and transport scene.

The Secretary
Andijk, November 2013