



THE ANCHOR

The monthly newsletter of the Houston Maritime Museum

DROP ANCHOR WITH US IN 2014

Due to our increased visitor traffic, we are extending our hours to 5pm.
New hours of operation: Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm.

The Elissa Sets Sail

The 1877 tall ship, Elissa set sail for the first time in more than four years Saturday, March 29, 2014, in Galveston. Elissa once again returned to the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico with guests and supporters aboard for a first-hand look at her completed restoration. Among these guests was our very own Director of Operations, Kristin Josvoll, who earned a spot to sail through the Texas Seaport Museum's sail training program.



PHOTO BY BRETT COOMER
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Model of the Month

Napoleonic Prisoner of War

By: Burton Reckles, Docent & Trustee



During my 10 year affiliation with the museum, I have seen its collection grow in size and quality. Important areas that were not represented ten years ago are in featured exhibits today. Members of the Gulf Coast Ship Modelers Society create and contribute outstanding models to fill collection voids. The workmanship and quality standards of these contributions literally "blow visitors away". Recent examples to look for on your next visit

HMM Membership Drive

Help keep Houston's maritime heritage alive by joining the Houston Maritime Museum! Members have the opportunity for great benefits including free admissions on every ticket year-round, discount on our events, and a 10% discount on purchases in the HMM shop. Get advanced notice of exciting upcoming events, such as our Lecture Series, along with special invitations to Member-Only previews and events. The packages range from individual and family to corporate level memberships.

HMM is a member of the Council of American Maritime Museums and North American Reciprocal Museum Association, and as an added BONUS, all of our members that are at the family level and above receive reciprocal memberships to all museums that are members of CAMM and NARM, which is over 150 museums worldwide!

Memberships also make great gifts for friends and family. Your generous support helps the Museum present and maintain riveting exhibitions, sustain education and community outreach programs, build the collections, and enhance the maritime experience for all visitors.

Ready to Join?

[Join online](#), or call us at 713-666-1910 and a representative will be happy to assist you.

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include John Heard's model of Scottish Maid 1839, which was featured in the prestigious Nautical Research Journal, and Charlie Cozewith's reproduction of a votive ship model (circa 1400) discovered in an Italian seaport church.

Given all there is to choose from, selecting a favorite is nearly impossible. Shakespeare said "to thine own self be true," and as both a creator and admirer of maritime miniatures, I chose one model I had researched, built, and contributed to the museum myself, following an investment of about 100+ hours of time. It is the only replicated Napoleonic Prisoner of War (POW) model in the collection. Built of pre-ban ivory, the scrimshawed model measures 4 1/2" long x 3 1/2" tall, and features several 3/16" tall crew member.

This piece is my favorite, not for the specific vessel's history, but rather because of the history of this form of maritime modeling. The idea for the piece was born from a meeting I had with the Director of the Barcelona Maritime Museum, a world class facility housed in a former ship yard that once built Roman Galleys. Sitting in the museum library with five Napoleonic ivory scrimshawed POW models built in the 1800's, I shot photographs, made sketches, and took measurements as we discussed the provenance of this type of modeling.

The French POW's formed quasi-artisan guilds to produce small objets d'art to sell in periodic civilian open markets. Funds raised bought the prisoners tobacco and other goods. Many of these French sailors had been shanghaied by French naval vessel crews to complete the ship's compliment. Some of the kidnapped Frenchmen were craftsmen like gold or silversmiths, wood carvers, cabinet makers, etc., who had wandered out of the town tavern drunk, were knocked out, and awoke twenty miles out at sea as sailors. The models that the guilds built were initially made of available materials like beef bones from dinner, and the hair of guild members for rigging. A wealthy merchant, clergyman, or even a member of royalty might have liked and bought the model, but they would not like what it was made from, and asked to have it remade with an exotic material like ivory, which they would provide. My model seeks to replicate this type of piece.

These works of art are sought by maritime museums worldwide because of their unique history and rarity. Hopefully, we will eventually be able to add an original Napoleonic Prisoner of War ship model to our collection, but in the interim, I replicated this one to fill our collection void. Look for it on your next visit. Knowing the history of this type of craftsmanship, I bet it will become your favorite model too!

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April Lecture Series

HMM has new nights for our Lecture Series! Please join us on the second Tuesday of every month for the History Lectures, and the third Tuesday of every month for the Career Lectures. This is subject to change for some months depending on holidays.

HISTORY LECTURE

Eight Significant Events in Maritime History
with F. Carrington Weems II

Tuesday April 8, 2014
7:00pm - 8:00pm



**Tuesday
April 8,
2014**

**7-8pm
Refreshments
Served**

Free
to the public
thanks to generous support by:



Cannons firing. Ships ablaze. Life rafts deployed.

From the Santa Maria in 1492 to the Champion of the Seas in 1854 and on through modern history, learn more about eight significant historical events in the maritime world.

The Houston Maritime Museum presents a history lecture on the second Tuesday of each month; our next lecture is April 8 with special guest, F. Carrington Weems II. With a passion for boats, sailing, fishing, cruising, shrimping and traveling at high speed, this collector has curated a fantastic private collection of maps, ships and architecture. He has amassed a wonderful arsenal of historical anecdotes, and we are honored to have him lecture.

For example, did you know that the *Champion of the Seas* set the record for the longest day's run, 480 nautical miles, on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to Melbourne? They averaged 20 knots, or almost 23 mph, with all of her sails extended in a gale.

The *CSS Alabama*, a screw sloop-of-war, was built in secrecy in 1862 for the Confederate States Navy, burning 65 Union vessels in two years. During all of *Alabama's* raiding ventures, captured ships' crews and passengers were never harmed, only detained until they could be placed aboard a neutral ship or placed ashore in a friendly or neutral port.

For more exciting tales from maritime history, please join the Houston Maritime Museum and F. Carrington Weems II on Tuesday, April 8. Bring a friend and let them discover why the HMM is your home port for discovering the wonder & influence of the maritime world.



**2204 Dorrington
Houston, TX 77030**

www.HoustonMaritimeMuseum.org

**For more info:
713-666-1910 or
contact@houstonmaritimemuseum.org**

Please join us for this exciting History Lecture with Carrington Weems!

**Tuesday, April 8th
7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Please join us to hear Carrington Weems speak about significant events in maritime

history. With a passion for boats, sailing, fishing, cruising, shrimping, and traveling at high speed, this collector has curated a fantastic private collection of maps, ships, and architecture. He has amassed a wonderful arsenal of historical anecdotes, and we are honored to have him lecture. Bring a friend and let them discover why the Houston Maritime Museum is your home port for discovering the wonder and influence of the maritime world.

More information can be found at [Houston Maritime Museum Lecture Series](#)

Special Thanks to our Generous Lecture Sponsors



Interested in ship modeling? Join the Gulf Coast Ship Modelers Society on the second of Saturday every odd-numbered month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Houston Maritime Museum.

Click [GCSMS at HMM](#) for more info!

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Try it FREE today.

The Houston Maritime Museum | 2204 Dorrington | Houston | TX | 77030
