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CONTENTS

Articles

- Kimberly L. Breyfogle, Rudder Form in Inland and Oceangoing Dutch Merchantmen of the 17th Century. /
- Michael Whitby, Challenge, Planning, Execution: The Seaward Defence of the Assault Area off Normandy, 6-14 June 1944 /
- Roy Fenton and Hugh Murphy, A Major Scottish Tramp Ship and Liner Company: Andrew Weir's Bank Line – 1875-2016. Part 2, 1970-2016. /

Book Reviews

- Richard Blakemore. *Enemies of All: The Rise and Fall of the Golden Age of Piracy* by Louis Arthur Norton /571
- Bowers, Ian (ed.). *Coalition Navies during the Korean War: Understanding Combined Naval Operations* by Melissa Davidson /573
- Gordon H. Boyce. *A History of British Tramp Shipping, 1870 - 1914, Volume 1: Entry, Enterprise, Formation and Early Firm Growth* by William Glover/575
- Iver P. Cooper, *Poseidon's Progress: The Quest to Improve Life at Sea* by Thomas Malcomson /577
- Tom Cooper, Sirous Ebrahimi, and E.R. Hooton. *Iran-Iraq Naval War Volume 2: Convoy Battles 1981-1984* by Charles Ross Patterson II /579
- Mick Davis. *The English Convict Hulks, 1600s-1868: Transporting Criminals to Australia* by Louis Arthur Norton /581
- Gerard de Lisle. *The Nile Campaign 1884-1885: The Letters and Sketches of Rudolph de Lisle RN* by Charles Ross Patterson II /583
- Stefan Dramiński. *The Destroyer USS Kidd* by Charles Ross Patterson II /585

-
- William F. Fowler Jr. *Commanding Old Ironsides: The Life of Captain Silas Talbot* by Louis Arthur Norton /587
- Andrew W. German. *The Charles W. Morgan: The World's Last Wooden Whaleship* by Louis Arthur Norton /590
- Augustín Guimerá and Richard Harding (eds.) *Sailors, Statesmen and the Implementation of Naval Strategy* by Anthony Peebler /592
- Olive Heffernan. *The High Seas: Ambition, Power and Greed on the Unclaimed Ocean* by H.T. Holman /594
- Alexander Hill and Paul Wright (illustrator). *Soviet Cruisers 1917–45: From the October Revolution to World War II* by Chris Madsen /596
- Angus Konstam, illustrated by Adam Tooby. *British Lend-Lease Warships: The Royal Navy's American-built Destroyers and Frigates* by Ian Drew/598
- Arthur MacGregor. *St. Helena: An Island Biography* by Eric Troels Wiberg /600
- Malyn Newitt. *Navigations: The Portuguese Discoveries of the Renaissance* by Louis Arthur Norton /602
- Matthew Richardson. *Manxmen at Sea in the Age of Nelson, 1760-1815* by Michael Toth /604
- Nicholas Rogers. *Maritime Bristol in the Slave-Trade Era* by Michael Toth /606
- Myron J. Smith, Jr. *The Old War Horse. The USS Benton on Western Waters, 1853–1865* by Lincoln Paine /608
- Conrad Waters (ed.). *Seaforth World Naval Review 2024* by Chris Madsen /610

Editorial

Alicia Caporaso, who wears three hats as a member of NASOH's Council, NASOH's Student Committee, and this journal's editorial board, recruited and edited the first article in the present number. Alicia provided the following introduction:

When I attend NASOH's annual conference, I pay particular attention to the student presentations and identify those for which the quality of scholarship and the scope of the paper could be readily transformed into a top-quality publication for our journal. Kimberly Breyfogle presented her paper, "Rudder Form in Inland and Oceangoing Dutch Merchantmen of the 17th Century," at the 2023 NASOH conference in San Diego, CA, and was one of the best student papers presented that year (one of several students who attended for the first time, from Texas A&M University, brought by their professor Kevin Crisman). I contacted Kimberly right after the conference, asking her if she was interested in submitting her paper, and she immediately said yes.

As an archaeologist and a woman, I especially like to identify other young women archaeologists to contribute – I think our journal could use more of us! Kimberly was a joy to work with, and I couldn't be happier with the final article. I think our readers will love it.

The CNRS's Matthew's Award committee was indeed impressed. On 24 May at the society's annual conference held in Port Hope, ON, the committee recognized Kimberly's work with an honourable mention in the "Best Article" category for publications in 2024. "Kimberly Breyfogle tackles a specialized but fascinating subject in prose that is accessible to those of us not schooled in the technical aspects of naval architecture, an achievement all the more noteworthy for her being a 'new' scholar."

Michael Whitby, a Matthews Award-winning contributor to the journal since its early days in 1992, returns with "Challenge, Planning, Execution: The Seaward Defence of the Assault Area off Normandy, 6-14 June 1944." The piece features important new research on the naval aspects of the Normandy landings and the liberation of France, a topic on which he has long been a leading authority.

The final article is the concluding part of Roy Fenton and Hugh Murphy's

history of Scottish shipowner Andrew Weir's Bank Line, the first part of which appeared in the previous issue of the journal (vol. 34 no. 3 (Autumn 2024): 373-414). The present piece illuminates the broader decline of British shipping and ship-building in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century on the basis of a thorough exploration of company records, including online sources available from the UK government's Companies House.

The present issue is the last of three undertaken by the guest editors in preparation for Michael Moir, our new editor, taking the helm for volume 35. It has truly been a team effort, with Michael pitching in as he has done for years; Alicia Caporaso is another stalwart, as is Pete Kikkert, the past editor, who has continued to help. Our welcome new book review editors, Jean-Michel Turcotte and Melissa Davidson, have hit the ground running, delivering first class packages of reviews to tight deadlines. As always publication ultimately depends on another stalwart, our ever capable and willing production editor Walter Lewis.

Roger Sarty and Richard Gimblett, guest editors