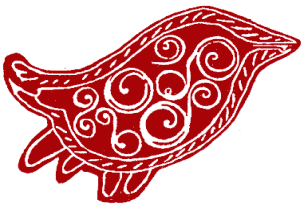
**Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society**

www.corkhist.ie



Title: Review: "Ships and shipyards, sailors and fishermen: introduction to maritime ethnology", edited by Olaf Hasslof, Henning Hennigsen and Arne Christensen (Copenhagen: Rosenkilde and Bagger, 1972)

Author: Twohig, Dermot C.

*Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*, 1972, Vol. 77, No. 226, page(s) 142

Published by the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

Digital file created: July 27, 2016

Your use of the JCHAS digital archive indicates that you accept the Terms and Conditions of Use, available at http://corkhist.ie/terms-and-conditions/

The Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (IE-148166, incorporated 1989) was founded in 1891, for the collection, preservation and diffusion of all available information regarding the past of the City and County of Cork, and South of Ireland generally. This archive of content of JCHAS (from 1892 up to ten years preceding current publication) continues the original aims of the founders in 1891. For more information visit www.corkhist.ie.

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie

All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions

Digital content (c) CHAS 2016

# Reviews

*Ships and Shipyards, Sailors and Fishermen — Introduction to Maritime Ethnology.* Edited by Hasslof, Henningsen and Christensen for The Scandinavian Maritime History Working Group. Rosenkilde and Bagger, Copenhagen 1972. Pp. 329, many b & w plates and figs. Dan. kr. 80.00.

One of the essential texts for the student of nautical archaeology, both in the past and indeed to day, is *Ancient Ships* by C. Torr, 1894 (reprinted in 1964 by Cambridge). To it may now be added this publication under review. To appreciate fully the material content of the book it is necessary to note the chapter headings; 'Maritime Ethnology and its Associated Disciplines', 'The Concept of Living Tradition', 'Main Principles in the Technology of Ship-Building', 'Maritime Commerce as a Socio-Historical Phenomenon' by Olaf Hasslof, 'The Life of the Sailor Afloat — Sources and Systems of Classification' by Henning Henningson, 'The Danish Chartered Companies' by Knud Klem, 'Growth of a Fishing Village' by Kari Helmer Hansen, 'Skin or Wood' by Ole Crumlin-Pedersen, 'Boatbuilding Tools and the Process of Learning' by Arne Emil Christensen, and 'Shipyards and Ship-Building at a Warf in Southern Sweden' by Nils Nilsson. The range of subject matter, as shown by the titles of these essays, includes archaeology, sociology, cultural geography, technology, industrial history and ethnology.

Throughout the book the main line of research centres on maritime ethnology (as indicated by the subtitle). Ethnographic studies are, in the main, concerned with what has become known as *folklivsforskning* (folklife research) in Scandinavia. This research concentrates primarily on living tradition, hence the need for intensive field work. In Scandinavia this field work, which has reached an advanced level, has been undertaken by the Scandinavian Maritime History Working Group and it is on the results of this work that the publication is based.

'The Main Principles in the Technology of Ship-Building' by Hasslof discusses the current lines of research on the origin and development of ship-building. It is of interest to note that many of the proposed theories are discussed in terms of ship-building practices either in current use or in use within living memory. Therein lies one of the major problems of the maritime ethnographer. This is created by the rapid disappearance of traditional practices; there is therefore the need for recording them before they disappear completely. This is a problem not entirely unique to Scandinavia. The importance of the Irish curragh type of boat to the study of the developmental sequence from prehistoric skin or wood prototypes to the plank boat is noted by Crumlin-Pedersen in his essay 'Skin or Wood'. Perhaps a maritime ethnology orientated research program aimed at the Irish Atlantic seaboard would return some useful data.

Much of the basic ship-building jargon is discussed and elaborated on by Arne Christensen in his essay on boatbuilding tools. The final essay by Nilsson is a very worthwhile contribution to both industrial archaeology and economic history. This essay traces the history of one particular shipyard at Pukavik in Southern Sweden from the late 1800's up to the closure of the yard in 1954.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of this book is the way in which it succeeds in correlating the many disciplines involved in the study of ships and ship-building. It shows the nature of archaeology to be that of a correlating science.

Dermot C. Twohig.

*The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology and Underwater Exploration. Vol.* 1, *March* 1972. Edited by Joan du Plat Taylor, Seminar Press, London 1972. Pp. 247, many b & w plates and figs. £2.90.

This publication (*J.N.A.*) marks the introduction of an archaeological journal which deals specifically with underwater archaeology. It is designed primarily to bring together all the data arising from the excavation, recording and conservation of all archaeological material from the sea, lakes, rivers and sometimes land. The journal is published on behalf of the Council for Nautical Archaeology which has representatives from the Council for British Archaeology, the British Museum, the Science Museum, the National Maritime Museum, the University of London Institute of Archaeology and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology. The high standard of the journal can be appreciated not only from the above list of council members but also from those people who contribute to the material content of the book. Many of those people are already known to us through their survey and excavation work in the Mediterranean. The editor of the journal has previously successfully edited *Marine Archaeology* for C.M.A.S. (World Underwater Federation).

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie

All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions

Digital content (c) CHAS 2016