

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

Website : <http://www.sbmodelships.com>

The Foghorn

January 2024

Happy New Years!!



Fig. 1. Chinese Junk in Hong Kong Harbor.



Happy New Years!!

新年快樂!

Wishing you prosperity!

恭喜發財!

Year of the Dragon

龍年



Future Course Headings...



Fig. 2. **Thomas Celerier** (left) from a local committee arranging a celebration of the French frigate, *L' Hermione*, which, in 1780, brought **Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette** to America to join George Washington's army during the American Revolutionary War. He is talking with **Prez Jim Rhetta** (right) about the committee's plans for the celebration and how the South Bay Model Shipwrights can contribute to it.

During our last in-person meeting, we were privileged by a visit from **Mr. Thomas Celerier** (Fig.2) who is part of a French committee whose members are arranging a celebration of the arrival in 1780 of **Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette** to join the Continental Army of George Washington during the American War of Independence. The ship which transported Lafayette to America was the frigate *L' Hermione*. There is now a full-size operating replica of *L' Hermione* that was built in 2014. It is now undergoing maintenance and details of the celebration are yet to be fully published. It is the goal of the SBMS to build and display models representative of ships and ordnance used during the American Revolutionary War. This display will take place sometime in **March/April of this year** at the **Palo Alto Art Center**. More details are expected in the near future along with some historical summary of Lafayette's role in the war.



Fig.3. Photo of the frigate *L' Hermione* replica under way on her maiden voyage in 2014. (Wikipedia)

• **In-person SBMS meeting, Saturday, February 10, 2024, 2 PM.** In the meantime, our February in-person meeting will be at our usual meeting place at the Game Kastle on **Saturday, February 10, 2 PM.**

Game Kastle
1350 Coleman Ave
Santa Clara, CA
(408) 243-4263

As noted on the front page, this is also **Chinese New Years, the Year of the Dragon for 2024! We will serve Chinese pastries in celebration during this meeting!**

• **Thursday, February 22, 7 PM: Monthly Zoom meeting.** Then, our Zoom meeting will be **Thursday, February 22, 7 PM.** Keep an eye on your inbox for the Zoom specs.

• **IPMS Silicon Valley Classic convention, Saturday, June 15, 2024.**



Fig. 4. Models entered by SBMS members in the recent 2023 **IPMS Tri-City Classic** model convention in Fremont. Left to Right: Fishing cutter, *Dana*, American Gunboat, *Arrow*, HM Schooner, *Pickle*. Close up photos of these models in the **November Foghorn**. (Jacob Cohn)

This year's **IPMS Modeling Convention** will be held at an earlier date of **Saturday, June 15**. As like 2023, this convention will be held at:

**Fremont Elks Lodge
38991 Farwell Dr.
Fremont, CA**

Bring a finished model to this convention. Last year, Jacob Cohn and Clare Hess won prizes for outstanding craftsmanship!



Maritime Matters of the Month (Ken Lum)

• **Clare Hess Becomes New SBMS Webmaster!** With great relief and fanfare, our most productive model builder, **Clare Hess**, has generously volunteered to become our new webmaster! Thank you, Clare! We all look forward to his new ideas on how we can make our website:

<https://sbmodelships.com>

continue to be a useful and inviting place to go for information on ship model building and club activities. And thank you, **Jim Tortorici**, for all your years of service in maintaining and updating our website. And thank you for helping Clare to transition to his new duties!

Clare will bring great experience, not only from his ship model building, but also his knowledge of the ship model kit industry from his work with **Ages of Sail** and his connections with other ship modelers throughout the Bay Area (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. **Clare Hess** is the SBMS's best ship modeler. He has a particular interest in Japanese coastal vessels from Japan's pre-industrial era. Pictured is a **Hacchoro** (八丁櫓 – Eight Oared) sailing vessel from the Edo Period built from a Woody Joe kit by Clare. (Clare Hess)

•**Frank's Fisherman Ship's Chandlery in San Francisco is Closing.**



Fig. 6. The storefront of **Frank's Fisherman Ship's Chandlery** at **Fisherman's Wharf** in **San Francisco**.

Say it ain't so, but it appears **Frank's Fisherman Ship's Chandlery** at **366 Jefferson St, San Francisco, CA** in Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco near the San Francisco Maritime Museum may be closing or is being sold. I have sent inquiries for more details, but await a reply.

This store is a favorite local vendor for the sale of finished ship models by local builders. Our founder, **Jean Eckert**, put up her award-winning models of the **HMV Mary** and the **Nonsuch** for sale there in 2020 shortly before her passing. My subsequent discovery of these models in this store led to **Walt Hlavacek's** purchase of both of them so these models are now currently held within the SBMS 'membership family'. An account of how that happened can be found in the **February** and **March, 2020** issues of the **Foghorn**. It was an amazing confluence of good luck!

I will update this note later as soon as I learn more about the fate of this shop of treasures.

- Once a sinking white elephant, *RMS Queen Mary* shows signs of a remarkable revival to profitability.



Fig. 7. The *Queen Mary* In Long Beach, CA. (David Jones/ (Davie Jones Locker?) Wikipedia)

Back in the **April, 2021 Foghorn**, I reported that the old passenger liner, *RMS Queen Mary*, in **Long Beach, CA** seemed at risk of becoming insolvent as a result of the bankruptcy of **Urban Commons**, a real estate firm which was supposed to maintain the ship and lease it from the **City of Long Beach, CA**, the current owner of the ship. Unfortunately, the pandemic plunged tourism to zero and the ship and Urban Commons ended up in dire financial straits.

However, the ship was taken over by the new management of **Evolution Hospitality**, a hotel management firm, in 2022 which reopened the *Queen Mary* in April of 2023 to the public and has been making some headway on the ship's estimated \$23 millions of dollars of deferred maintenance. The **LA Times** reports that bookings for the rooms on the ship, tours, and other events has greatly accelerated leading the ship to report a profit of \$3 million from \$12.6 million in revenue between June through October of 2023. So far, around 200 rooms out of 343 are available to rent.

While these profits remain relatively modest in comparison to the venue's capital needs, they seem to be making good progress towards financial sustainability. There are now plans to open a movie theater and offer other entertainment at the venue. Maybe book a vacation on the ship along with a visit to Southern California sometime! Don't forget that the **USS Iowa**, **SS Lane Victory**, and the **Los Angeles Maritime Museum** are nearby. And a couple of hours south is San Diego with its **San Diego Maritime Museum** and **Air and Space Museum** not to mention many other attractions.

Let us wish them the best of luck on more good news in the future!
A YouTube tour of the ship can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmQl18fzowE>



Kit News (Ken Lum):

- **Vanguard Models Releases another Cutter Model Kit, *HM Trial* of 1790.**



Fig. 8. New Vanguard Models kit of *HM Trial* (Vanguard Models)

Chris Watton of Vanguard Models is at it again, releasing yet another cutter model kit, this time of *HM Trial* (Fig. 8) of 1790. Like *HMS Alert*, it is a most charming rendition of another one of the Royal Navy's smaller units.

According to the Vanguard Models advertising, "The 'Trial' was built by Thomas Dusterville of Plymouth to the designs of Captain John Schank (Ordered on 1st December 1788). It measured 65 feet in length by 21 feet in the beam and had a tonnage of 123 burden. She had a complement of 45. The hull was fitted with three of Captain Schank's sliding keels,

which give the shallow hull directional stability when under sail.

On 28 June 1793, *Trial* took a privateer from St Marlo, the 14-gun 'Le Feret'. In 1797 *Trial* captured the privateer brig 'Le Courier de la Mer'. In 1798 whilst keeping watch on the invasion flotilla at Le Havre, in company with a frigate and a bomb vessel, her ability to sail close inshore was useful in a brief action with the 36-gun frigate 'La Confiance' and the 20-gun corvette 'La Vesuve'. The former was beached, deserted and later burnt by a boat action; the corvette was driven ashore but refloated and escaped when superior forces drove off the British squadron. The *Trial* was hulked in 1810 and became a depot ship at Waterford. She was still in service in the 1840's, at Callao in Peru as a coal depot, and sold in 1848 – a very long service career for such a vessel.

When first commissioned in 1790, *Trial*'s main armament was 8 x 3 Pounder carriage guns. In 1793, 4 x 12 Pounder carronades were added. It is with these extra guns that the kit is modelled on, giving her 12 guns in total. *Trial* was fitted with stocks for swivel guns on the gunwale, but research suggests that these were never once used during her long career, so no swivel guns have been included. It is important to note that once carronades were added to a ship's armament, the need for swivel guns was completely negated, as carronades did the same job, but much more effectively."

Like Vanguard's other models, it is of 1/64 scale, and it measures 570 mm (22.4") in length—a very manageable size. The model kit sells for **\$280** from **Ages of Sail**. The Instruction manual is extremely impressive and can be downloaded from the Vanguard Models website.

<https://vanguardmodels.co.uk/product/trialcutter/>



Methods to Our Maritime Madness

- **Sources of Woods for Ship Modeling.** While visiting **Charlie Parson's** ship models on display at the **San Mateo Co. History Museum** in **Redwood City** last month, I was really admiring his use of pear wood to build his models as it is such an attractive wood for ship modeling. But where to get some as well as other modeling woods was a question I had.

Companies selling fine-grain woods for ship model building have come and gone. And most ship model vendors do sell a fair amount of the most commonly used kit woods such as basswood and walnut. But vendors of more exotic woods are far less common.

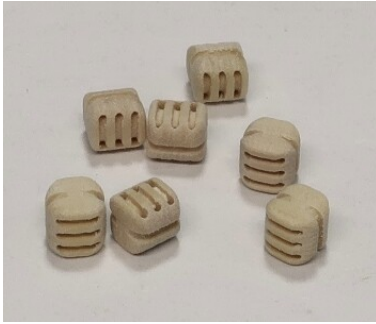
Modeler's Sawmill at: <https://www.modelerssawmill.com> is a supplier in New Jersey that provides all the wood used in the kits and inventory of the **Syren Ship Modelling Company**:

<https://syrenshipmodelcompany.com>

The woods **Modeler's Sawmill** is said to supply include: **Boxwood strips, European Swiss Pear, Alaskan Yellow Cedar and premium grade Cherry and Walnut.**



Fig. 9. Model hull of the English Revenue Cutter, *Cheerful*, done by **Chuck Passaro**. using Alaskan Yellow Cedar. (Syren Ship Models)



The pictures of models (Fig.9) built for Syren Ship Modeling by **Chuck Passaro** show the outstanding results that can be turned out using these woods. Syren also uses their boxwood to make what are arguably best mass-produced rigging blocks available to ship modelers (Fig.10).

Fig. 10. Boxwood model blocks from **Syren Ship Modeling** (Syren)

Another company that sells modeling woods is **The Lumberyard for Model Shipwrights** at:

<https://www.dlumberyard.com>

The Lumberyard is located at:

Address: 6908 Stadium Dr,
Brecksville, OH 44141

Phone: 1(440) 526-2173

and advertises itself as supplying wood and kits based on the work of the late **Harold Hahn** who specialized in ships from the **American Revolutionary War** period. The kits are offered in **Beech, Cherry, Maple** and **Swiss Pear**. Strips in **Afromosi, Bloodwood, Bocote, Bubinga, Canarywood, Chakte Kok, Chechin, and Cocobolo** are said to be available. And then resawn sheets are also available in these and many other woods as listed on their website including the aforementioned Pear.

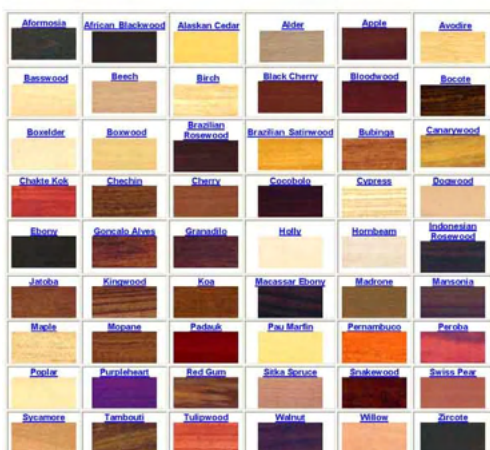


Fig.11. **Sample Wood Board** from **The Lumberyard for Model Shipwrights** (Lumberyard)

One of the really useful accessories they sell is a **Sample Wood Board** (Fig. 11) containing small samples of many types of woods used in modeling glued to a mounting board. This is very useful for selecting the types of wood you would be interested in ordering for your project. My only surprise was that its price is listed as \$43, but came with a shipping cost of \$62.26 to total to \$105.26! I wonder if other orders also come with such a high shipping cost? Hrrmpf!

Anyway, as I say, modeling woods can be found from many sources, but these two sources seem to stand out as having exceptional variety.



Maritime Books of Interest (Ken Lum):

- **New Books from Seawatch Books**



Fig. 12. Cover of the new book on *HMY Fubbs*. (Seawatch Books)

SeaWatch Books is announcing the release of a new book on the Stuart Royal Yacht, *Fubbs of 1682* by **David Antscherl** and **Effie Money Penny**. And here is their description of this book (Fig.12).

“This book describes the research, history, reconstruction and building of a model of the Stuart era Royal yacht. One of the most successful of some 25 yachts built for **King Charles II**, *Fubbs* was named for his favorite mistress, **Louise de Kerouaille**, the Duchess of Portsmouth.

A ketch-rigged yacht with two masts, she was elaborately equipped and decorated. The model described in this book is based on research into a contemporary model that was in the possession of the Earls of Sandwich for many generations. The hull form was

developed from research by the authors into the 'shipwrights secrets' of Commissioner Peter Pett. His second son, **Sir Phineas Pett**, built the *Fubbs*. This model represents the original ship rather than the rebuilt *Fubbs* of 1724. Stay tuned for more details and release date!”

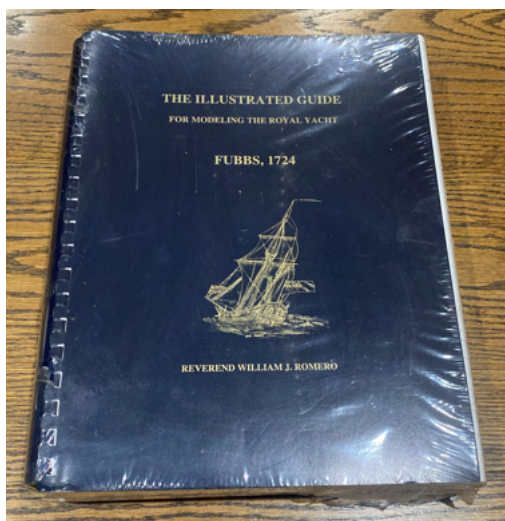


Fig. 13. Rev. Romero’s practicum on the 1724 *Fubbs*.

For those in the know, many will recall that an extensive earlier practicum by **Reverend William J. Romero** was issued in **1997** by **Pier Books** (predecessor of **SeaWatch**) on the same ship (Fig.13). As hinted above, the Romero book covers the appearance of the rebuilt 1724 yacht whereas the new **Antscherl** and **Money Penny** book reconstructs the appearance of the *Fubbs* in **1682**.

And finally, here are photographs from the U.K. **National Maritime Museum** of the original draught of the **Fubbs** in 1682 (Fig. 14) and an Admiralty model of same from 1725 (Fig. 15).

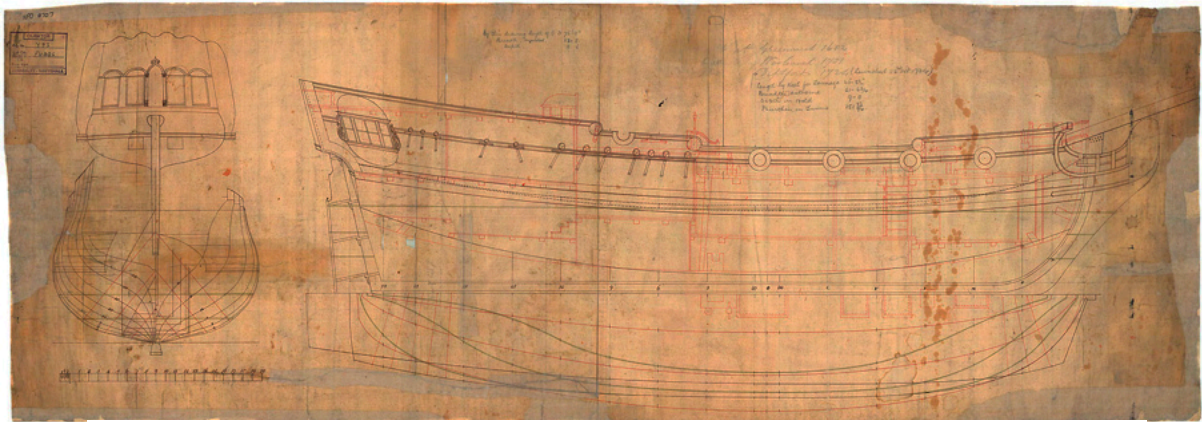


Fig. 14. Original draught of **HMV Fubbs** from 1682, (Nat. Maritime Museum)



Fig. 15. Admiralty model of **Fubbs** from 1725 (Nat. Maritime Museum)

Unfortunately, I was not able to find anything on a contemporary **Fubbs** model of 1682 referred to by Antscherl and Money Penny above. More on that in their book, I suppose.



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard



Fig.16. Model of *L' Hermione* by Richard Walton from a kit by Atesania Latina. Sent to us from his home in Ventura, CA.



Fig. 16. **Battle station** kit from Mantua-Panart. Under construction by Walt Hlavacek. Above on left is an English Carronade model and right is a French Carronade kit both from Ken Lum.



Fig.17. Progress on Woody Joe kit of *Charles Royal Yacht* by Clare Hess. The decorations have been gold leafed.



Fig.18. Decorations on the *Charles Royal Yacht* model.

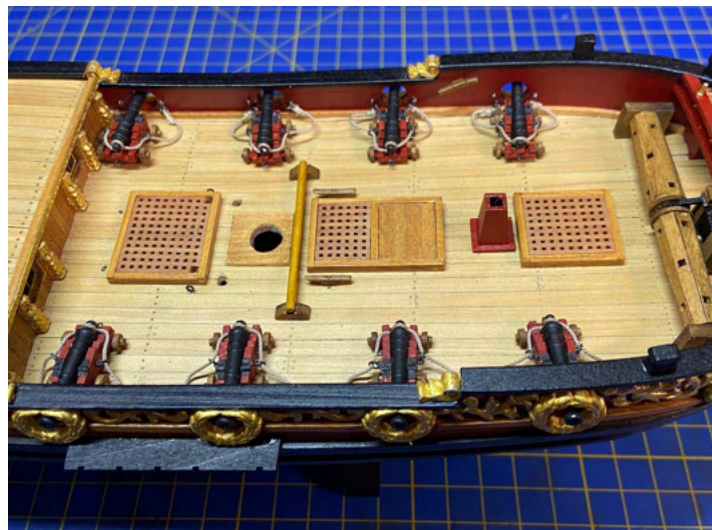


Fig. 19. Gun layout of the *Charles Royal Yacht* model.



Fig. 20. Model and details from Shipyard card model of *HMS Wolf*. Built by Clare Hess.



SBMS Club Officers

President	Jim Rhetta	email: jmrhetta@aol.com
Vice President And Newsletter Editor	Ken Lum	email: lum40@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jacob Cohn	email: jcohnster@gmail.com
Harbor Master	George Sloup	email: george.p.sloup@outlook.com
Webmaster	Clare Hess	email: catopower@mac.com



Annual Club Membership

Send in your Club Membership fee with the attached renewal form. Submit a \$20 check made out to South Bay Model Shipwrights and mail to Jacob Cohn, 726 7th Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063. Mostly, we use the money to pay for our in-person meeting venues and hosting of our website (<http://www.sbmodelships.com>). Welcome Aboard!

Membership Form

Make check out for annual membership of \$20.00 to South Bay Model Shipwrights and mail to Jacob Cohn, 726 7th Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063

Print your name _____ Phone# _____

Address



Receive our Foghorn newsletter by email? Yes ___ No ___

Email address _____

To order a club name badge, add \$15.00 to your check and print your name exactly as it should appear on the badge

