

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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

The Foghorn

December 2024

Merry Christmas!



Fig. 1. Christmas at the *Cutty Sark*, Greenwich, U.K. (Visit Greenwich)

Seas and Greetings!





Future Course Headings...

After some discussion at our November 16 In-person club meeting, the decision was made to have no less than 3 club events in December. To start with we will have our Annual...

- **Wednesday, December 11, 5:30PM, SBMS Holiday Dinner!** Our annual Holiday SBMS club banquet will be held at **Chef Chu's Chinese Restaurant** located at the intersection of San Antonio Rd. and El Camino Real in Los Altos at:

Chef Chu's Chinese Restaurant
1067 N San Antonio Rd
(Corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Rd.)
Los Altos, CA 94022
Phone: (650) 948-2696



Fig. 2. Front of **Chef Chu's Chinese Restaurant**

Great food at one of the best Chinese restaurants in the Bay Area! Let Ken Lum know at lum40@comcast.net if you are coming and how many people will come with you to enable reservations to be made. As this is the Holidays, the restaurant has asked that we arrive at **5:30PM** to make for better accommodations to their logistics. Thanks!

- **Saturday, December 14, 2024, 2 PM: In-person SBMS meeting.** Our last in-person meeting of the year will be on **Saturday, December 14 at 2 PM.** As usual, it will be held at:

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

Bring your latest projects and other maritime goodies for discussion!

- **Thursday December 19, 7PM: Monthly Zoom meeting.** And then our monthly Zoom meeting will be **Thursday, December 19 at 7 PM** so the Zoom specs will be sent out just before the meeting. Keep an eye on your inbox!



Maritime Matters of the Month

- **Royal Navy Ship Ratings.** Anyone interested in building a warship model from the **age of sail, generally from the early 16th Century to the end of the 19th Century**, will read about how their ship was classified during their time in service.

Initially, warships were mostly adapted cargo ships that carried guns and other weapons for self-defense mostly against pirates while conducting

their routine duties in commerce. During times of crisis they could be commandeered when necessary to defend against a threatening enemy. As guns of various sizes were added, offensive capabilities were also added as tactics and technology evolved.

Although navies were established by the Spanish, French, Dutch, Venetians, and other European nations during the early 16th Century, it was in Britain that the sailing warship was most aggressively developed and used in a formally established hierarchical navy backed up with dedicated shipyards, professional shipwrights to design and build naval ships along with a bureaucracy to train crew and manage and strategically deploy them. This was especially recognized as necessary following the English victory over the **Spanish Armada** in **1588**. With this, uniform standards were set for ordinance, the training of crew and the building of ships so this military branch could effectively act in a coordinated way in its mission to protect commerce and win conflicts.

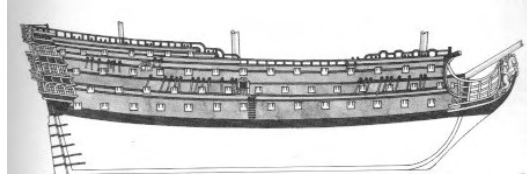
In the building of ships, their categorization began during the time of **Henry VIII** when his nascent navy of 58 ships were pictured in the **Anthony Roll of 1546** and classified as '**ships, galliasses, pinnaces, and row barges**'. One of the ships pictured in the Roll, the **Mary Rose**, has actually been mostly recovered archeologically, and its mostly intact port side is on display in Portsmouth, UK.

The more formalized system of ship types we are most familiar with started in **1604** during the **Stuart period**. Initially, ships were classified by the sizes of their crews and sometimes, by the number of guns as listed below.

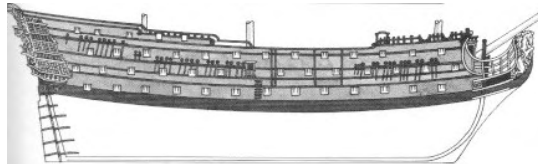
- Royal Ships** - the largest ships in the "great ships" grouping, mounting 42–55 guns and carrying at least 400 men.
- Great Ships** - the rest of the ships in the previous "great ships" grouping, mounting 38–40 guns.
- Middling ships** mounting 30–32 guns.
- Small ships** mounting fewer than 30 guns.

A little later, ship categories were referred to as **Ranks** and then, by **1626**, they were called **Rates** primarily determined by the number of guns carried. Also, **Line-of-Battle tactics** became the standard method of engaging an adversary by 1675 which necessitated determination of what kinds of ships would be large enough to effectively join the line. Ultimately, six rates were established by around the 1750s as listed below (Fig. 3).

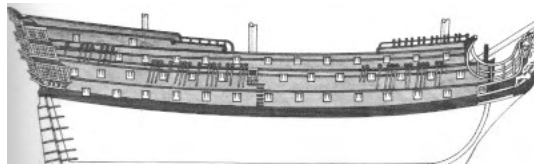
- **First Rate**-100 or more guns
Ship-of-the-Line



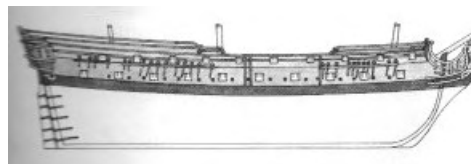
- **Second Rate**-90-98 guns
Ship-of-the-Line



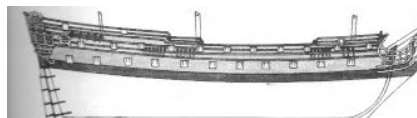
- **Third Rate**-64-88 guns
Ship-of-the-Line



- **Fourth Rate**-46-60 guns.
Occasionally used in line of battle.



- **Fifth Rate**-30-44 guns (frigates)



- **Sixth Rate**-20-28 guns



Fig. 3. Comparative sizes of wooden warships from First Rate to Sixth Rate. (from **The Wooden Fighting Ship**, E.H.H. Archibald)

The first three rates being ships of 64-100 guns were considered large enough to participate in the line-of-battle. Smaller fourth to sixth rate ships of 60 or less guns were assigned other duties such as convoy duty, exploration, carrying dispatches, station-keeping, and trade and tariff enforcement.

Smaller ships of various sizes were called **Barques** (such as Captain Cook's ***Endeavour***), **sloops**, **packet ships** (such as the ***HMS Pickle***), **brigs** and **schooners**. Some specialized ships were also built that did not fall into these categories such as **bomb ketches** which were equipped with mortars, and **fire ships** which were sacrificial ships sent into enemy formations to set fire to their ships.

These classifications were used until the end of the 19th Century when whole new categories of ships were built from iron and steel incorporating much more powerful artillery and steam locomotion.

Ships in other European navies were also classified with similar systems that resembled the British system.

A deeper exploration of the rating system can be found on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/vgocHFdzAGE?si=rMzqzFIhzSTrFlo0>

and Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rating_system_of_the_Royal_Navy



Kit News (Ken Lum):

- **New *USS Missouri* Model from Occre at 1/200 scale.** The march of large scale 1/200 steel ship model kits continues in both plastic and wood with the release by **Occre** of a wood kit of the battleship *USS Missouri* (Fig. 4) where the Imperial Japanese surrendered to the Americans to bring WW2 to an end.



Fig. 4. **Occre** model of *USS Missouri* in 1/200 scale.

With the model measuring at 1.355 meters in length some of you thinking of this model may have to decide whether your home should be used to shelter yourself or the ship model but not both! Nonetheless, the large scale would permit much super-detailing as well as possible RC operability. This model is also configured to the way this ship, as nick named “**Mighty Mo**”, appeared during WW2.

The kit can be purchased at **Ages of Sail** for \$937.99. A 1/200 scale model in plastic is also available from the Chinese kit manufacturer, **Trumpeter**, for from \$335 to \$400. A much older wood kit in 1/192 scale by **Sterling** can be found on eBay and elsewhere. Of course, models of the *Missouri* have been available in many different scales for over the last half century given the ship’s undeniable fame and aesthetically pleasing lines..

The original ship is now berthed at Pearl Harbor, HI as a museum ship next to the sunken remains of the *USS Arizona* and other sites of interest including the **Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum** among other attractions. Very fascinating for a tourist visit.



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard



Fig. 5. Our club gathering at the Game Kastle, November 16. Many nice models available for inspection as shown more specifically below. From left to right around the table are Jacob Cohn, Clare Hess, Walt Hlavacek at the opposite end of the table, George Sloup, Jim Tortorici, an anonymous left-over Halloween skeleton (just visiting!)-should give him a club application form , and Prez Jim Rhetta.



Fig. 6. Progress on the Russian tender, *Avos*, by George Sloup. The original ship was built in 1806 in Novoarkhangelsk (present Sitka, Alaska) for the Russian-American trading company. She was used in an expedition to California led by the explorer Nikolai Rezanov the same year to bring supplies to starving Russian settlements in Alaska.



Fig. 7. 1/200 scale plastic model of the Imperial Japanese predreadnought battleship, *Mikasa*, from **Hobby Boss**. She served as the flagship of Admiral Togo Heihachiro at the **Battle of Tsushima** in 1905. Model built by Jacob Cohn. The original ship still exists, restored to exhibitable condition in Yokosuka, Japan. This is Jacob's second *Mikasa* model, the first one in 1/700 scale.



Fig. 8. Progress on the Woody Joe kit of the British yacht, *Sir Winston Churchill*, by Clare Hess.



Fig. 9. Paper model of *HMS Wolf* from Shipyard by Clare Hess. Amazing to do such quality work with paper!



Fig. 10. Artesania Latina model of the 1805 Virginia Pilot Boat, *Swift*. Hull retrieved by Jim Rhetta from an estate. Very nicely done!



Fig. 11. Late 18th Century French cutter, *Le Cotre*. Hull retrieved from an estate by Jim Rhetta.

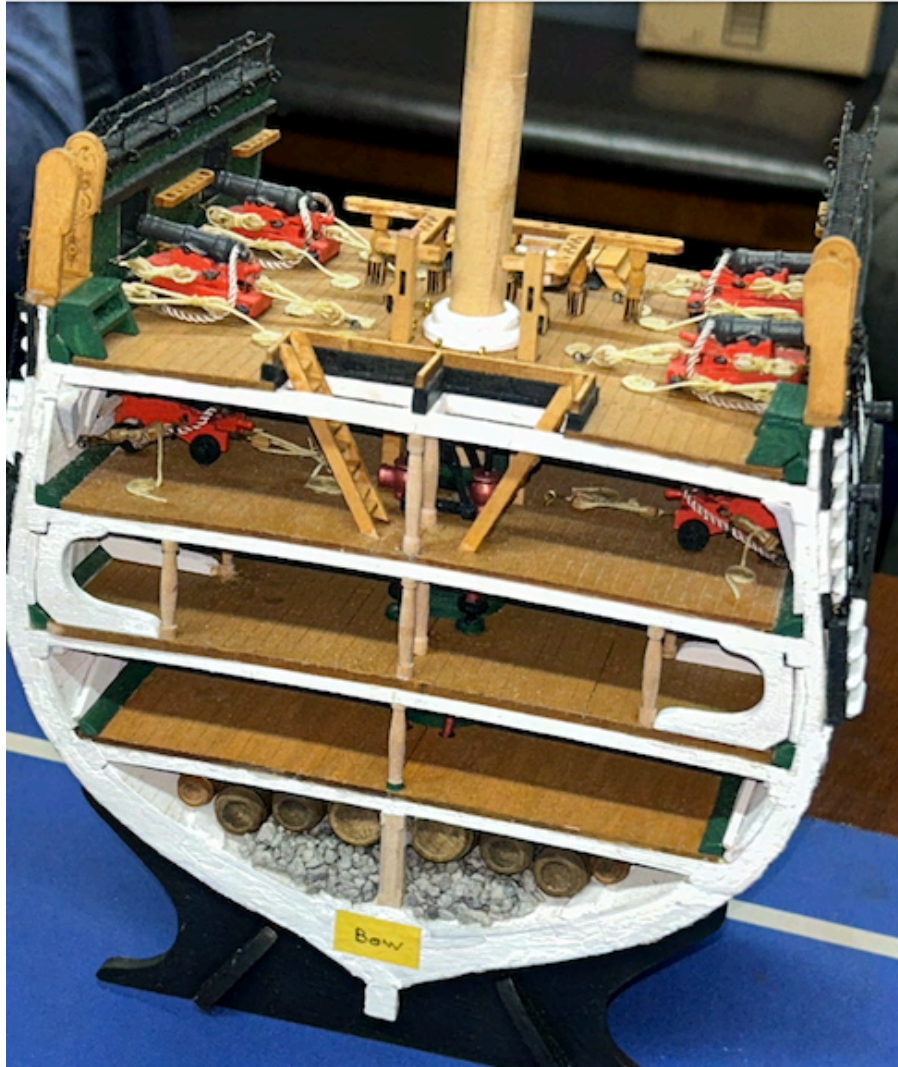


Fig. 12. Jim Tortorici's *USS Constitution* cross-section.
Nearly finished!



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

