

# ***MARITIME LABOUR HISTORY WORKING GROUP (EUROPEAN LABOR HISTORY NETWORK)***

**Newsletter No 10, 12 April 2018.**

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## **CONFERENCES**



### **3rd European Labour History Network Conference, Amsterdam 2019**

During the last meeting of the European Social Science History Conference held on 4-7 April 2018 in Belfast, some coordinators of the ELHN Working Groups met in order to organize the next ELHN Conference.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ELHN will be hosted by the International Institute of Social History, in Amsterdam, on 19, 20 and 21 September 2019. In further issues of this newsletter we will inform you about the results of the

meeting so we all can plan our future strategy. Of course the Maritime Labour History Working Group will be there.

### **Port and Maritime Studies at Hull**

On 25-26 July 2018 the Maritime History Institute, University of Hull, organises the International Postgraduate Port and Maritime Studies Network Annual Conference.

The aim of this two-day conference is to bring together postgraduate and early career researchers of any discipline who incorporate any aspect of port and maritime studies into their research. In this context our colleague Jo Stanley is giving a keynote speech about maritime labour on July 26 on 'Representing minorities in maritime museums: gender, race, and sexual identity'. If you wish to participate you should send an abstract of 250



word with a short CV to Siobhan Hearne and David Wilson at [ippmsn@outlook.com](mailto:ippmsn@outlook.com) before 14 May 2018.

### **James Hanley (1897-1985), queer seafarer's history**

The University of Liverpool is offering a part time course of five x two-hour evening meetings that could be of your interest even if you are not able to attend it: *James Hanley's Liverpool: The City in Fact and Fiction?*.

Jo Stanley writes for us a short biographical sketch of this writer (portrayed here by Gladys Vasey's, picture courtesy of National Museums Liverpool). He was one of Britain's main writers of novels and short stories about seafaring and sailortown history. From a Liverpool-Irish Catholic seafaring family (his father was a Cunard stoker) James was a merchant seafarer from 1915-17. He wrote about being on a WW1 troopships in *The Hollow Sea* (1938) and in his non-fiction work, *Broken Water: An Autobiographical Excursion* (1937). A prolific writer influenced by James Joyce he struggled to find success as a writer. He is now



acclaimed, not least as Merseyside writer about queer seafaring life. *Seminally Boy* (1931) is about a young seaman who is sexually abused by shipmates and dies of a sexually transmitted disease; in his final agony he is smothered by his captain. Works include *The Last Voyage* (1931), a novella about a ship's firemen; a semi-autobiographical sequence about a port family, the *Furys* (1935, 1936, and 1940); *Narrative* (1931) about a shipwreck, and his WW2 novels *The Ocean* (1941) and the lyrical *Sailor's Song* (1943). He can be compared to Conrad, WW Jacobs and Emile Zola.

The course starts on 24 April 2018 and you can find more information at <https://payments.liv.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/continuing-education/history-and-local-history/james-hanleys-liverpool-the-city-in-fact-and-fiction-tuesday-600pm800pm>

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### **PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES**

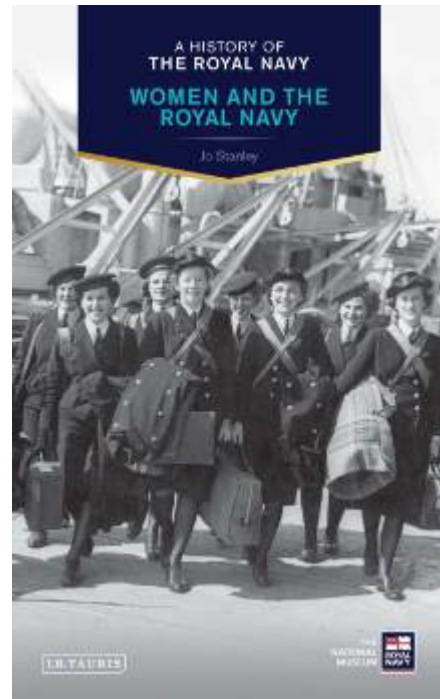
We offer you information about publications that can be of your interest. In this newsletter all of them are from members of our working group. Please keep us informed about your recent publications on the topic on labour and maritime industries.

#### **Women at maritime, but not seagoing, labour**

Network member Jo Stanley's new book on women associated with the militarised labour of the UK Royal Navy was published in November and is now being widely reviewed. Is this book more than a work on naval history. Jo Stanley situates women's

naval activities within a worldwide context of women who worked, travelled and explored new options. We must have in mind the impact of war and conflict in the developing of women's opportunities to show their value and to fight for their rights and recognition.

As the author says, *as nurses, 'Jenny Wrens', and above all as wives and mothers, women have quietly kept the Royal Navy afloat throughout history*. The outbreak of both world wars gave women special opportunities and saw the role of women as Wrens, nursing sisters, VADs and medics change and develop. In more recent times, the development of equal rights legislation has fundamentally changed naval life: women are now truly in the navy and do 'men's jobs' at sea. Quoting again the author, *though not fully permitted to serve until 1991, these women's employment led to sea-mindedness and to unusual gendered mobility and motility*.



On the other hand, in the last decades historiography is growing in new approaches to military history, now with a new focus on social history and people's experiences, so we hope that this new book will capture the interest of social historians. By the way, this is one of the topics that the ELHN has among its centres of interest through the Working Group *Military Labour between XV and XX Century / Histoire du travail militaire*

You can have more information about the book at the website <https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Jo-Stanley/A-History-of-the-Royal-Navy-Women-and-the-Royal-Navy/16283441>



## Les Protestants et Le Havre

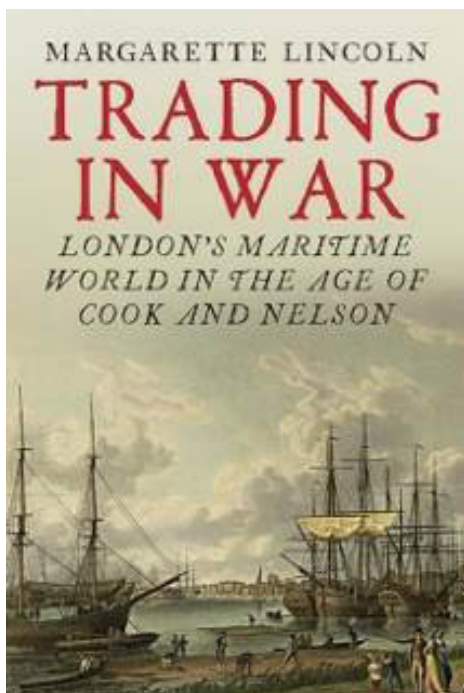
We have again a suggestion from our colleague John Barzman, included in the Bulletin de la SHPN, hors-série, 2018, ISSN 1762 0678. The article is 'Glances sur l'action protestante à dominante sociale vers le monde maritime et portuaire au Havre aux XIXe et XXe siècles'. You can freely download this new work about Le Havre and its maritime community at:

[https://www.academia.edu/36325867/Barzman\\_John\\_Glances\\_sur\\_laction\\_protestante\\_%C3%A0\\_dominante\\_sociale\\_vers\\_le\\_monde\\_maritime\\_et\\_portuaire\\_au\\_Havre\\_aux\\_XIXe\\_et\\_XXe\\_si%C3%A8cles\\_in\\_Les\\_protestants\\_et\\_Le\\_Havre\\_Bulletin\\_de\\_la\\_SHPN\\_hors-s%C3%A9rie\\_2018\\_ISSN\\_1762\\_0678](https://www.academia.edu/36325867/Barzman_John_Glances_sur_laction_protestante_%C3%A0_dominante_sociale_vers_le_monde_maritime_et_portuaire_au_Havre_aux_XIXe_et_XXe_si%C3%A8cles_in_Les_protestants_et_Le_Havre_Bulletin_de_la_SHPN_hors-s%C3%A9rie_2018_ISSN_1762_0678)



## Social History during the Revolutionary Wars

In the half-century before the Battle of Trafalgar the port of London became the



commercial nexus of a global empire and launch pad of Britain's military campaigns in North America and Napoleonic Europe. The unruly riverside parishes east of the Tower seethed with life, a crowded, cosmopolitan, and incendiary mix of sailors, soldiers, traders, and the network of ordinary citizens that served them.

The author recovers the maritime world of that time from a different point of view. It is not a naval or economic approach but a social one. Lincoln highlights the pervasive impact of war, which brought violence in different forms and a susceptibility to subversive political ideas. It also commemorates the working maritime community: shipwrights and those who built London's first docks, wives who coped while husbands were at sea, and early trade unions. This is, the lives of ordinary Londoners behind the unstoppable rise of Britain's sea power and its eventual defeat of

Napoleon.

More information about Margarette Lincoln's book at <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300227482/trading-war>

## SeaLit website

The ERC Starting Grant research project *Seafaring Lives in Transition Mediterranean Maritime Labour and Shipping, 1850s-1920s* (SeaLit) has launched its website, created by the CCI/ICS/FORTH.

In it you will find information about the local research groups (some members are also members of our Working Group), the different fronts of research, goals and projects, and deliverables.



You can use the link <http://www.sealitproject.eu/> to access the website.

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## OBITUARY

### Prof. Lewis R. (Skip) Fischer (1946-2018)

It is unusual for us to include obituaries in the Newsletter, but all you will agree that sometimes the question is not only to inform about sad news but to recognize the job of key people in our field of research. We feel the need to remember the late professor Lewis R. Fischer, with a text by Jo Stanley, and a picture courtesy of Ann Devlin.

In February 11 Skip Fischer died of pulmonary fibrosis. He was co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Maritime History*, from 1989, <http://www.imeha.net/the-international-journal-of-maritime-history-ijmh/>. It remains the world's primary publisher of articles on of maritime history and has published an enormous number of articles on maritime labour. Skip himself, as part of the influential Atlantic Canada project, wrote a number of seminal social and economic history articles on male seafarers. As Professor of History at Memorial University Newfoundland for forty years he had a major impact on maritime historiography and research and was probably the best networkers in maritime history too.



There will be a celebration of his life in London on Thursday 19 April at 5.45pm. The event is hosted by Alan James and the British Commission for Maritime History at King's College London. Professor Hugh Murphy will open the memorial with a talk on 'Lewis Ross Fischer and the Growth of Maritime Economic History.' This will be followed by others who will share their memories and appreciation for Skip and his contribution to maritime history. If you wish to book a place, please email [alan.2.james@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:alan.2.james@kcl.ac.uk)

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*PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT BOOKS, RESEARCH IN PROGRESS, EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES OR ANY SUBJECT THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST FOR THE GROUP. NEW INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.*

*SPECIAL THANKS ARE DUE TO JO STANLEY FOR KEEPING US INFORMED ABOUT INTERESTING EVENTS*

*IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO US AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WILL BE DELETED FROM THE LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.*

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