

# *The MARINER'S MIRROR*

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## *Abstracts*

*The Jade Dragon Wreck: Sabah, East Malaysia* Michael Flecker

A shipwreck was recently discovered by fishermen divers just off the northernmost tip of Borneo. While it was heavily looted in the space of a couple of months, an official excavation has resulted in some important discoveries. The ship, dated to about 1300 ad, was of the South East Asian lashed-lug tradition and the ceramics cargo was almost exclusively Longquan celadon. Both the wreck and the cargo are analysed in this article in order to determine the likely origin and destination of the ship and the role it played in regional trade.

*Social Politics and the Midshipmen's Mutiny, Portsmouth 1791* S. A. Cavell

In 1791 Thomas Leonard, a midshipman assigned to duty aboard HMS *Saturn*, refused to subject himself to the masthead punishment ordered by his First Lieutenant and triggered a series of events that came to be known as the Midshipmen's Mutiny. The incident involved the young gentlemen of the Channel Fleet and made visible a break down in the Royal Navy's system of officer recruitment and advancement in the pre-commission ratings. The 'mutiny' highlighted a confusion among the young gentlemen involved over which took precedence, social rank or naval rank. It also revealed a high degree of sensitivity to matters of honour among the corps of officer trainees stationed in Portsmouth. Evidence from court martial records shows that conflict over issues of gentlemanly honour and naval subordination, as it related to officer aspirants, was no isolated problem. This article examines the facts of the 'mutiny' and the reasons why it has remained in the shadows of naval history.

*Miniature Ships in Designed Landscapes* Alistair Roach

Miniature sailing ships were seen on lakes in a number of English parks and gardens during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and were often used for mock naval battles (naumachia), but were also sailed purely for pleasure, or perhaps to provide a focal point within the estate. Between 1689 and 1815 Britain was involved in a series of conflicts and it is not surprising that Anglicized naumachia and similar nautical pastimes became a popular and patriotic entertainment, which also celebrated the Royal Navy and Britain's imperial power. Although the ships concerned were often depicted in contemporary pictures relating to the various estates, little appears to have been written about the vessels employed. This article focuses on vessels from

two particular sites as examples of this stylized form of nautical entertainment.

Importing Nautical Knowledge: Nineteenth-century specialized journalism in Spain *Itsaso Ibáñez, Luis-María Fernández-Martínez and Esperanza Díaz*

In Spain, the advancement of science in the nineteenth century was hindered by political instability within the country. Very little domestic scientific production took place, and even less was done to keep abreast of the advances taking place abroad. In scientific and technical disciplines, knowledge transfer occurs primarily through specialized journals, whose readers may effectively track the spread of new ideas. This paper discusses the relevance of nineteenth-century Spanish nautical journalism in communicating advances in maritime knowledge, which it reviews through the spread of 'new astronomical navigation', one of the key advances in nautical positioning of that century.