

Christian P.P. Lemée

The Renaissance Shipwrecks from Christianshavn

An archaeological and architectural study of large carvel vessels in Danish waters, 1580-1640

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The main aim of this study has been to discover the specific carvel shipbuilding methods used in north-west Europe in the Renaissance period. The analysis is based on a group of ship-finds excavated under the direction of the author in Copenhagen in 1996 and 1997.

A total of eight wrecks were discovered and recorded on the former premises of the Burmeister & Wain (B&W) ship engine factory in the Christianshavn quarter of Copenhagen. Five of them were the remains of large carvel-built vessels dating within the reigns of the two Danish kings Frederik II (1559-1588) and Christian IV (1588-1648) and thus representing a unique collection of Renaissance ship-types used in Danish waters. Most of the large ships were Dutch-built.

The analysis of these finds combines the detailed recording of sections of four of the ships with their physical reconstruction in the shape of scale models. These steps result in a sound understanding of how flush-planked ships were designed and built according to the shell-based concept.

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- excavation, documentation and reconstruction 4. The B&W shipwrecks: archaeological analyses

B&W 4, a Wadden Sea trader B&W 5, a Dutch-built flute or pinas B&W 2, a Dutch-built Danish East Indiaman B&W 1, a Dutch-built verlanger B&W 3, a clinker-built vessel B&W 6, a clinker-built vessel B&W 7, a 16th-century skeleton-built vessel B&W 8, a carvel-built ship's boat 5. Results and discussion

Summaries in English, Dutch, French, Danish and German language.

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From the Foreword:

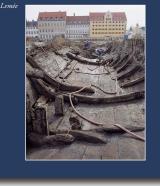
"The merit of Lemée's study lies first and foremost in the uncompromising methodology in archaeological source-criticism: recorded and recordable phenomena are analysed and interpreted through transparent and systematic technical experimentation, ... thereby ... revealing the concepts that governed the ship-building technology of the day, as well as its flexibility."

Thijs J. Maarleveld, University of Southern Denmark

SHIPS AND BOATS OF THE NORTH VOLUME 6

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