

# Maritime Heritage and Modern Ports

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*Technical University of Catalonia, Spain  
and the Maritime Museum of Barcelona, Spain*

# Maritime Heritage and Modern Ports

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## PREFACE

This book contains the papers presented at two important meetings held at the Drassanes Reials or Maritime Museum of Barcelona, organised by that Institution and the Wessex Institute of Technology in the UK, in collaboration with the Politecnic University of Catalunya.

The Drassanes Reials, a former naval dockyard, are a series of buildings which represent one of the high points of Catalan civic gothic architecture. The magnitude of the Drassanes Reials of Barcelona reflects the development of the Catalan sea commerce in the late Middle Ages, and the need to build and maintain ships in order to protect the Catalan trade.

The meetings held there were the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Maritime Heritage and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Maritime Engineering, Ports and Waterways.

Because of the common interests of the participants to both meetings, some joint activities were organised, particularly a special session and a technical visit to the Maritime Museum. This gave the delegates the opportunity to discuss common problems and to understand how lessons from the past are still relevant to modern Maritime Engineering Works and Ports.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Maritime Heritage Conference brought together scholars and professionals on a variety of topics. In addition to the scientific advances, the meeting discussed the future of historical harbours, dockyards and other similar maritime structures in today's world, as well as the function of historical vessels and their heritage value. This led to problems such as the role of development schemes and the relationship between tourism and maritime heritage, trying to find ways to protect the latter.

The different sections in the first part of this book reflect the material presented, Historical ports, Historical dockyards and shipyards, Historical vessels, Maritime history, Underwater heritage, Surveying techniques, Preservation, Maritime heritage education and museums.

The second part of this book presents papers from the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Maritime Engineering, Ports and Waterways. These contributions deal with topics such as port management, integration of transport aspects, navigation, ship operation and multimode transport, information systems for ports and shipping, marine engineering works, hydrodynamic aspects, construction and design of ports and marinas and development of ports and coastal areas.

This part of the book refers to the importance of the transport maritime mode in development and the requirements of making operation of the ports more efficient, safe and productive, taking into account the increasing size and complexity of modern ships and, also, their specialisation that demands new infrastructures and operational services.

The Editors are grateful to all authors for their contributions and to the members of the International Scientific Committees of both meetings for their help in reviewing the material published in this book.

The Editors  
Barcelona, 2005

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