

S. 13. 5. – MODERN SHIPBUILDING AND ITS PORTS

Chair: Jeremy Land

(Georgia State University)

Globalization and the maritime city in the second half of the 20th century: The case of Bergen, Norway

STIG TENOLD (NHH/Bergen Maritime Museum)

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to show how globalization influenced the development of the maritime industries in Bergen, a city on the western coast of Norway, in the last decades of the 20th century. The main footprints of the maritime industries were found within four arenas, with the status in 1973 as follows:

- A large number of shipping companies that owned and operated ships transporting cargoes for foreign interests. Although the companies traditionally had acquired both investments and labour locally, the demand for shipping was in practice totally detached from the local economy.
- A shipbuilding industry that constructed ships for local and non-local customers, including a yard that was the city's biggest private employer in the early 1970s.
- An auxiliary industry built up to support the maritime activities, consisting of brokers, ship equipment producers, banks, insurance companies, etc.
- A port that originally primarily served three different markets; the local/ regional market, the domestic Norwegian market along the coast and some international activity, mainly general cargo liners.

The paper analyzes how these four arenas changed in the last decades of the 20th century, and to explain the basis for the transformation. In short, the development differed. The shipping companies became larger and more dependent upon foreign inputs, while at the same time becoming increasingly detached from the local labour market in connection with the employment of seafarers. Shipbuilding more or less disappeared, although some ship equipment producers have been able to improve their position. The auxiliary industries were strengthened and increasingly targeted an international customer base. Finally, the activity in the port changed; local and regional connections were challenged by land-based methods of transportation, while the international activity changed towards oil exports and cruise shipping.

Keywords

Shipping Norway Port

Biography

Stig Tenold is professor of economic history at the Norwegian School of Economics in Bergen. He has published widely on modern maritime history. His latest book is *Norwegian Shipping in the 20th Century – Norway's Successful Navigation of the World's Most Global Industry*,

which was published by Palgrave MacMillan in early 2019. He is also the editor, with Niels P. Petersson and Nicholas J. White, of *Shipping and Globalization in the Postwar Era: Contexts, Companies, Connections*, which is due for publication very soon.

Making freezer trawlers: the Rise and Fall of Astilleros y Construcciones, S.A.

CARMONAXOÁN (University of Santiago)

Abstract

In the early sixties the Spanish fishing fleet first reached the fishing grounds of the Southern Hemisphere. Its rapid expansion in those waters led to a strong development of the freezer fleet and an important change in fish consumption habits in Spain. The new type of fishing required new types of boats and gear and some shipyards specialized in the construction of the new freezer trawlers. The most important of them was Astilleros y Construcciones, S.A. , which began building Pescanova ships and soon expanded its client portfolio to a large part of the biggest Spanish fishing companies of the sixties and seventies, and some foreign ones.

Keywords

shipbuilding, fisheries, freezer trawlers, naval engineering

Biography

Position: Full Professor in Economic History at University of Santiago de Compostela

Current Investigation: Fishing, cannig and freezing. Frontier, organization, institutions and technology (Spanish Ministry of Industry and Technology, HAR-HAR2017-88128-R)

Book in press: Joaquín Davila y compañía. Cien años de liderazgo en el sector marítimo.

Main books:

-El atraso industrial de Galicia, Barcelona, 1990

-El empeño industrial de Galicia (con Jordi Nadal Oller), A Coruña, 2005

-La Sociedad General Gallega de Electricidad y la formación del sector eléctrico en Galicia