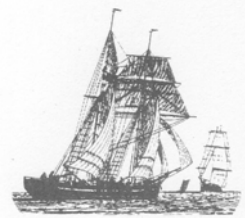


Mariners International



MI ANNUAL DINNER 2008 - Saturday 25th October

The Final Flowering of British Mercantile Sail

Fifty-eight members and guests gathered at the Victory Services Club, London to hear Captain Richard Woodman's talk on the final development of British deep-sea commercial sail. Those who were unable to come missed a thoroughly interesting presentation. The talk was beautifully illustrated with slides, mostly of paintings, which Captain Woodman felt captured the spirit of sail far better than photographs. It put together so much of what many of our members must have known in part, but not as a coherent whole. Altogether the presentation drew most favourable comments, both from members and from guests who are not necessarily sail fanatics.

Richard Woodman is a maritime historian and author of many books, not least the fourteen books of the Nathaniel Drinkwater series and many historical non-fiction works.

Following the talk we sat down to an enjoyable meal, with tables arranged so that old shipmates could sit together, and a good sprinkling of new members and those who had not come before.

We were particularly glad to welcome one of our oldest members, Freddie Lambert, who at 93 has just decided that it is time to give up sailing. Also Bernard Barden, formerly a 'docent' (super-guide to you and me) at the San Francisco Maritime Museum, who now lives in London. We were also delighted to have with us Rick Hogben, the previous editor for forty-nine issues of **Windjammer**, and John and Elspeth Fisher (mate and cook respectively on *Phoenix* in 1976), who headed up a table of Jubilee Sailing Trust watch-leaders.



An example of from Richard's presentation - the 4-masted steel barque *Ross-shire* built 1891, 2,148 NRT.