

SNAME Bulletin

November 28, 2009



Birthday of the SNAME Legacy Noted

117th Anniversary of Historic First Mention of SNAME in the New York Times

117 years ago today, under the banner of "Promotion of Shipbuilding", the New York Times announced the organization of "a professional society of high standing" by "the most prominent and influential men" dedicated to "shipbuilding and in all its branches, both commercial and naval".

This organization was, and is, the Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers.

Certainly much has changed since November 28, 1892. No one could, at that time, anticipate the advent of nuclear powered vessels, or the sheer capacity of the modern tanker fleet. The Society changed with the times as well. Born in America, SNAME is now a robust international society with volunteer leaders around the world. Of course, women now also stand shoulder to shoulder with men in our industry, in our Society, and in high office. While improved by these changes, SNAME's core values and mission remain unchanged.

President Keith Michel reflected on the anniversary. "Reading over the 117-year-old article, I feel a sense of connection and pride", President Michel said. "The article includes many great, historic names like William H. Webb, Col. Edwin A. Stevens, and Nathaniel Herreshoff. What they were trying to accomplish by founding SNAME, we continue to see as our mission for the Society today. I hope all members will take a moment to read over the historic piece from the Times and contemplate what they are a part of. SNAME has a wonderful legacy." (The article is reproduced at right.)

The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers is an internationally recognized non-profit, technical, professional society of individual members serving the maritime and offshore industries and their suppliers. Founded in 1893, the Society comprises over 10,000 individuals throughout the United States, Canada and abroad. Membership is open to all qualified applicants in or associated with the maritime, offshore, and small craft industries.

The New York Times

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PROMOTION OF SHIPBUILDING.

THE SOCIETY OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS AND MARINE ENGINEERS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—It is announced to-day that the most prominent and influential men in the shipbuilding and shipping interests of the United States have, completed the preliminary organization of a professional society of high standing, to be called "The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers," whose object shall be to promote the art of shipbuilding in all its branches, both commercial and naval.

The committee of organization, consisting of William H. Webb of New-York, Lewis Nixon, General Manager of Cramp's shipbuilding company of Philadelphia; Col. E. A. Stevens of Hoboken, Francis T. Bowles, Naval Constructor, United States Navy, and Clement A. Grisoom, President of the International Navigation Company, expect to incorporate the society in New-York, and are now sending out invitations to membership, hoping to have the first meeting at the time of the naval review next Spring.

The list of those who have accepted positions in the preliminary organization include many well-known names from all sections of the country. The President is Clement A. Grisoom; Vice Presidents—Theodore D. Wilson, Chief Constructor of the Navy; Charles H. Cramp, George W. Melville, George W. Quintard, New-York; Irving M. Scott, San Francisco; Gen. Francis A. Walker, Boston, and W. H. Webb, New-York.

The members of the Council include H. T. Ganse, Wilmington, Del.; Gen. F. W. Wheeler, West Bay City, Mich.; W. H. Jaques, Bethlehem Iron Works; Gen. T. W. Hyde, Bath, Me.; J. W. Miller, New-York; C. H. Orcutt, Newport News, Va.; Nathaniel G. Herreshoff, J. F. Parkhurst, Cleveland, Ohio; Naval Constructors Highborn and Bowles of the navy; Charles H. Loring, Capt. Sampson and Chadwick of the navy, and Harrington Putnam of New-York. W. L. Cappa is Secretary and Treasurer.

The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers

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