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Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954

Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



The Mariner's Mirror

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rmir20>

THE IDENTIFICATION OF MODELS OF MEN-OF-WAR

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Published online: 22 Mar 2013.

To cite this article: Gregory Robinson & R. C. Anderson (1912) THE IDENTIFICATION OF MODELS OF MEN-OF-WAR, *The Mariner's Mirror*, 2:7, 193-195, DOI:

[10.1080/00253359.1912.10654611](https://doi.org/10.1080/00253359.1912.10654611)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00253359.1912.10654611>

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The MARINER'S MIRROR

THE JOURNAL OF

The Society for Nautical Research.

Antiquities.	Bibliography.	Folklore.	Organisation.
Architecture.	Biography.	History.	Technology.
Art.	Equipment.	Laws and Customs.	&c., &c.

Vol. II., No. 7.

July, 1912.

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THE IDENTIFICATION OF MODELS OF MEN-OF-WAR.

BY GREGORY ROBINSON AND R. C. ANDERSON.

III.

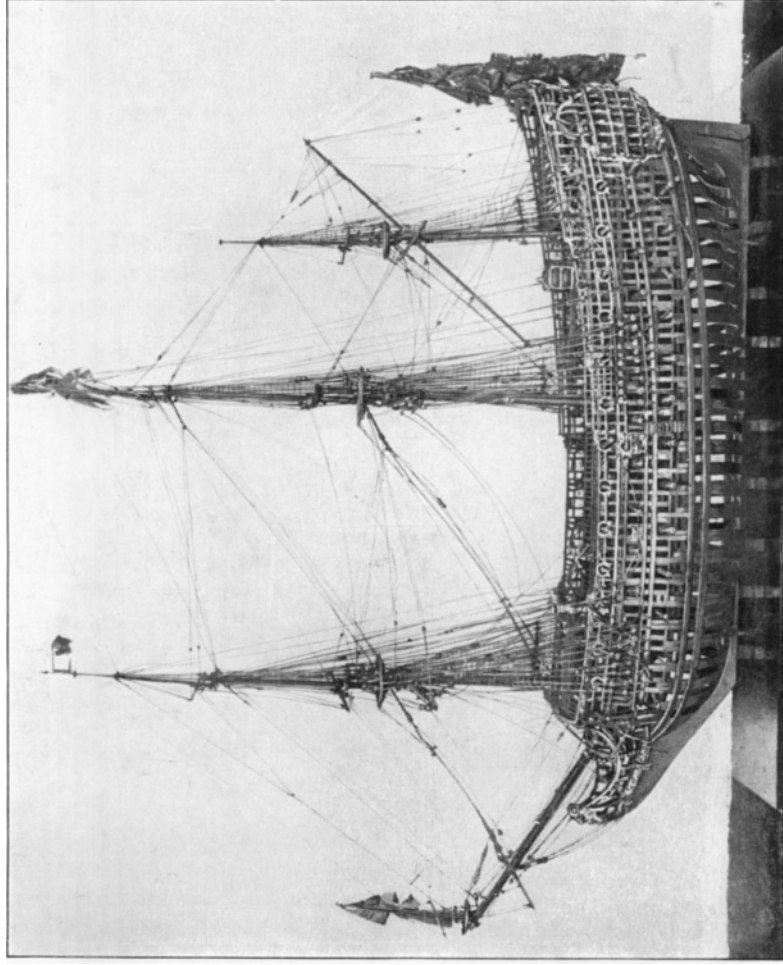
THE rigged model of a three-decker at Trinity House, London, has several interesting features. It is on a larger scale than usual, it is bare of planking, instead of being planked from the walles upwards as is the case with most models of the period, and in several points of construction it has a distinctly foreign appearance. These points are, firstly, the double timbering below the gun deck with, as a consequence, relatively large spaces between the timbers, secondly, the curve of the false stem, and, thirdly,

the pointed keel caused by the prolongation of the lower side of the keel beyond the back of the stern post. It has been described as a model of the 100-gun *Britannia* of 1682, but this is certainly an error, for apart from the fact that it probably represents a ship of fewer guns it can also be proved to be of earlier date than that ship.

Tradition associates the model with Sir Jeremy Smith, who was an Elder Brother of the Trinity House, and a minute of 1672 records the arrangement "that Sir Jeremy Smith would speak to Mr. Shish for a model." Sir Jeremy died in 1674, and none of the Shish family had anything to do with the building of the *Britannia*, so that if anything can be found to support the tradition it will at any rate be certain that the present ascription is wrong. As it happens, there is a coat of arms on the stern (below the ordinary Stuart Royal Arms) that gives just the evidence we require; the arms are those of Sir Jeremy Smith combined with those of his second wife, a Miss Pockley, and as this is the only model of the period in the Trinity House it seems more or less certain that it is the one mentioned as being obtained from Mr. Shish.

Sir Jeremy commanded at various times three big ships, the *Royal Katherine*, *Loyal London*, and *Royal Sovereign*. None of these was built by a Shish, but the *Loyal London* was built by Captain Taylor, the predecessor of Jonas Shish at the Deptford yard, and Shish would be the natural person to whom to apply, in 1672, for a model of that ship. There are, also, reasons for supposing that the *Loyal London* would be thought particularly worthy of an elaborate model. She was to some extent an experimental ship, for Captain Taylor was "in hopes of mending the old *London* built by him, for he finds that God hath put him in the right, and so will keep in it while he is in," and, further, the experiment appears to have been very successful, since Pepys also records that she was considered "to be the best ship in the world, large and small."

The idea that the model does represent the *Loyal London* of 1666 is fully borne out by the dimensions. The beam outside the wales is 15.1 in., and outside the timbers 14.5 in.; this would give an approximate beam outside the *planking* of 14.7 in. If this is to correspond to the *Loyal London's* beam of 41 ft. 9½ in. (or 41.8 ft.) we must assume that the scale is 1-34. Now the keel-length from the "touch," which is very well defined, to the heel minus ½ of the stern post is 44.9 in., and this on the 1-34 scale gives 127.2 ft., a remarkably close agreement with the value for



the *Loyal London*, 127 ft. The ratio of the keel to the beam is 3.05 both for the model and the *Loyal London*; in the *Royal Katherine* it was 3.13, and in the *Sovereign* 2.73, so that apart from the association with Shish the measurements point most decidedly to the *Loyal London*.

The model has 30 ports on the lower deck, 28 on the middle deck, 28 on the upper deck, and 8 on the quarter deck. There seems to be no record of the distribution of the *Loyal London*'s armament, but the other 96 gun ships carried 26, 28, 28, and 10, on the respective decks besides 2 on the forecastle and 4 on the poop. The number of quarter deck guns is the only difficulty, but there are two possible solutions; the *Loyal London* may have had her guns arranged in a peculiar manner, or she may have carried in reality fewer than 96. Evidence can be found in favour of either theory. The model will be seen to carry 92 guns, which, with 4 small guns on the forecastle and poop, would give 96. On the other hand, the peace-establishment given by Pepys would seem to point to 90 or 92 guns as the maximum armament of the ship; her peace-establishment was 82, and in every other First or Second Rate, with the exception of the *St. Michael*, the war-establishment exceeded that for peace by only 8 or 10 guns, not by 14, as is required to make up 96.

On the whole, then, the connection with Sir Jeremy Smith, and through him with one of the Shish family, together with the dimensions, are most emphatically in favour of the *Loyal London*, and the question of distribution of guns does little to upset this idea. The *London*, 96, of 1670, was built by Jonas Shish, and appears from that point of view the more probable ship, but she had no possible connection with Sir Jeremy Smith, and neither her dimensions nor her known arrangement of guns can be made to fit the model. It seems accordingly as certain as such a thing can be that the model does indeed represent the *Loyal London* of 1666, one of the ships destroyed by the Dutch at Chatham in the following year.
