

Meeting Report (Revised 7 December 2005)
Early European Ship Logs and the Climate Database Modernization Program
NOAA National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), Asheville, NC, USA
23-24 August 2004

A meeting was held 23-24 August at NCDC to discuss imaging and digitization activities for early ship data from European archives, proposed for funding from NOAA's Climate Database Modernization Program (CDMP). In part, this is planned as a continuation and expansion of the European Union-funded Climatological Database for the World's Oceans (CLIWOC) 1750-1854 project (completed in 2003), which focused on logbooks containing "semi-instrumental" (e.g., wind force) observations (García-Herrera, 2005). In addition, the scope of the effort will include untapped European (and other) logbooks extending well into the instrumental (mainly post-1853) era, such as during the data-sparse World War II period (see e.g., Woodruff et al., 2004).

Major discussion points and action items from the meeting:

1. Vast amounts of undigitized historical ship logs exist in UK archives, and smaller, but still significant, amounts exist in Dutch, French, German, and other European archives. Some logs extend back into the 16th century. Considerable amounts also still reside in US archives (e.g., Navy logs back to 1801).

2. One outcome from the meeting will be a detailed report documenting our current knowledge of national logbook holdings (plus negative information such as about the apparently lost Portuguese logs):

- a) Dutch and Danish (KNMI)
- b) German (Reinhard)
- c) Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Italian (Ricardo)
- d) UK (Dennis and Phillip)
- e) US (Scott and Joe)

The report will not necessarily be limited to early historical logs—the status of undigitized logs at least through 1949 and possibly until WMO (1963) Resolution 35, which inaugurated the routine keying and international exchange of logbook data, may also be relevant.

Action: submissions to Scott by the end of 2005.

3. An abbreviated summary of the meeting and of the detailed report will also be prepared, and possibly published.

Action: Scott to draft for input of group, after completion of item 2.

4. The group agreed to organize an international project (possible acronyms: IMADRID, RECLAIM), with a website to be hosted under ICOADS. The website will include the detailed and abbreviated reports (items 2-3), electronic presentations from the meeting, etc. The existence of an international project could be helpful to obtain funding.

Action: To be hosted under the ICOADS website, by the end of 2005.

5. Assuming CDMP continues to be adequately funded, FY2005 support of approximately \$300K would be desirable to initiate the project (contract period: March 2005-February 2006), and with hopes for continued multi-year funding. However, in view of the constraints on the use of CDMP funding, other sources of funding will be investigated nationally (e.g., UK, Spanish) particularly for imaging tasks. Independently, Germany is proceeding with imaging and digitization of its own logbook holdings.

Action: CDMP and all.

Participants:

Philip Brohan, Hadley Centre, UK

Joe Elms, NOAA/NCDC

Ricardo García-Herrera, U. Complutense, Spain

Gunther Können, KNMI

Dennis Wheeler, Sunderland U., UK

Scott Woodruff, NOAA/CDC

Steve Worley, NCAR

Reinhard Zöllner, DWD, Germany

References:

García-Herrera, R., G.P. Können, D.A. Wheeler, M.R. Prieto, P.D. Jones, and F.B. Koek, 2005: CLIWOC: A climatological database for the world's oceans 1750-1854. *Climatic Change*, **73**, 1-12.

Woodruff, S., J. Elms, R. Reynolds, R. Garcia, F. Guo, S. Worley, and T. Yoshida, 2004: Rescuing marine data. *World Climate News*, No. 25 (June 2004), WMO, Geneva, 10.