

Conservation of the Wood of the Swedish Warship Vasa of A.D. 1628

Evaluation of Polyethylene Glycol Conservation Programmes

The hull of the Swedish warship Vasa from 1628 was salvaged in April 1961. Shortly after, two other archaeological wet site projects were started, namely the excavation of the Danish Viking ships at Skuldelev, and the salvage of the medieval Bremen cog. Thus, in the early 1960's conservation of waterlogged archaeological wood became an important topic in the museum world.

Polyethylene glycol (PEG) had early been brought to the attention of the management of the Vasa project by *Rolf Morén* who was in charge of manufacturing PEG at the Mo & Domsjö paper mill industry at Örnsköldsvik (Sweden). He and conservator *Bertil Centernall* at the Historical museum of Lund University had developed a method for preserving with PEG small wooden objects from wet archaeological sites.

This dissertation is based on the results from the pioneering work of conservation of the Vasa hull and of large wooden objects belonging to the Vasa cultural heritage, to develop and generalize conservation methods using PEG as a dimension-stabilizing substance for archaeological wood from wet sites.



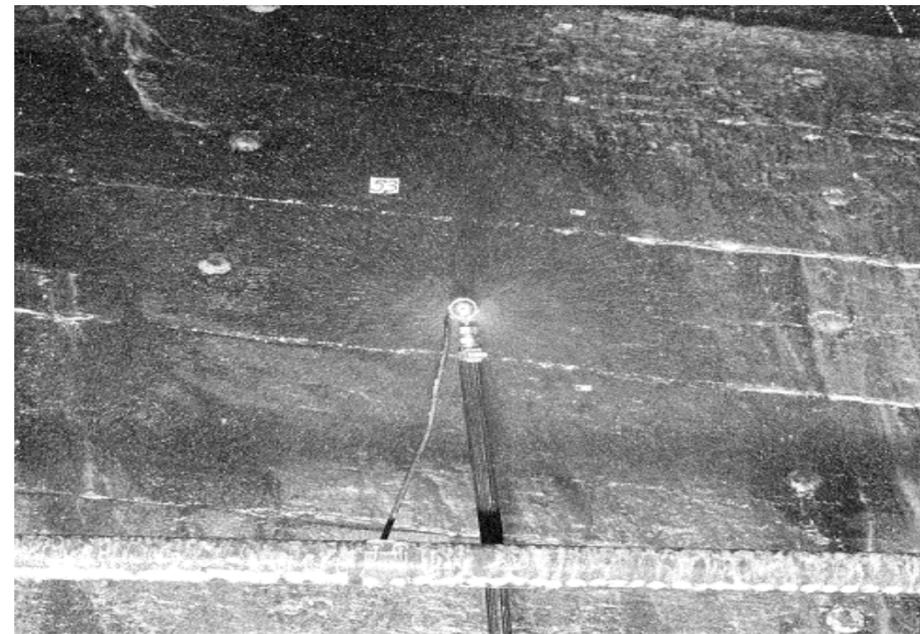
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ISBN: 978-91-7346-687-5
ISSN: 0284-6578

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