Replicas in Ship Museums

With photos from Tim Rizzuto – USS Slater
Outline

- What and Why to Replicate
- Problems
- UK Historic Ships taxonomy of Replicas
- Example of Creating a Replica
- Research
- Production
- Documentation/Marking
What is A Replica

Replica - Starting from scratch
Restoration - Minimal use of new material
Reconstruction - Significant new material
Adaption – New use of existing
When to Replicate

Preserve Originals

Missing, but Needed for Interpretation
When to Replicate

Safety

Research
Problems

- Obscures Clues to Future Research
- Endangerment of Historic Fabric
- Distraction from Basic Preservation
- Distraction from Restoration
- Market for Forgeries
- Intellectual Property
Types of Replicas

- Representations
- Operational Hypothesis
- Hypothesis
- Operational Replica
- Hull Replica
- True Replica
Outline of Creation

• Establish Need
• Research
• Search for Originals in Whole or Parts
• Original Materials or Substitutes
• Preserve Methods
• Marking/Documentation
• Visitor Proofing
• Acknowledgement of crew/donors
Why Replicate Bubble Clinometers

- Important to interpreting depth control
- Missing when donated in 1981
- Few real ones ever created
- Many removed for simulators
- Second most desirable souvenir of a sub sailor.
Research

- Searched for originals
- Existing parts
- Microfilm at NARA
- Holes in gauge boards
- Flanges on boat
- Paint on gauge boards
- Electrical panels
- Photos
Research

And then we found the photos...
Production

- CAD/CAM
- Model for test fit
- Build
- Install
- Visitor proofing
Documentation/Marking

• Best if Embossed, Debossed, Stamped
• Paint Only as a Backup
• Curator documentation
• Web site
Installed
Visitor Proofing
Kettle Holder
Questions?

• For More on Recent *Pampanito* Replicas:
  http://maritime.org/pres/restmiss.htm
  http://maritime.org/pres/bubble/
  http://maritime.org/pres/potrack/
  http://maritime.org/pres/magcompass/
  http://maritime.org/pres/escapereel/