



Cutty Sark

This week, Jeremy and Captain Jonathan discussed some shipbuilding techniques and mentioned the lack of ocean-going, wooden sailing vessels that have survived from the 18th and 19th centuries. They made reference to *USS Constitution* and *HMS Victory*, the most famous wooden ships of the United States and Great Britain respectively, but there are a few other wooden ships that have also been preserved as museums.



Cutty Sark under full sail

One such vessel is the tea clipper, *Cutty Sark*. Laid down and launched in 1869, *Cutty Sark* was built for speed; a necessity in the competitive global tea trade. The lines of her bow are extremely sharp, and she carried an exceptionally large press of canvas. Interestingly, *Cutty Sark* is not made entirely of wood. She is of “composite construction,” meaning that the planks of her hull are wood, but her frames are iron. After her service as a trading ship, *Cutty Sark* was used for many years to train maritime cadets. She is now permanently dry docked in London and is open to the public.

#TallShipTuesdays

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