



Peter Element, and Amanda Michel, Vice President SLTC, following his presentation for the Wolstenholme Memorial Lecture entitled "Artefacts from the Wreck of the Mary Rose."



Dr. Kerry Senior, Director, UKLF, at the time of making his presentation "Facts and Myths surrounding the leather supply chain".



John Basford receiving his award of the Landmann Certificate.

SLTC 117th Annual Conference

The 118th Annual Conference of the SLTC was held at The University of Northampton 25th April 2015. The event was attended by 79 delegates, and was followed in the evening by the SLTC Annual Dinner Dance.

Seven papers were presented in total, including The Wolstenholme Memorial Lecture entitled "Artefacts from the wreck of the Mary Rose". This was presented by Peter Element, who provided a detailed overview of the story of this historic ship, its recovery and conservation, and the importance of the some 19,000 artefacts recovered to date in understanding life on a major fighting vessel in the 16th century.

The other papers presented included:

- Bio Energy Systems by Dr Haaser, Sud Leder Germany.
- Facts and Myths surrounding the leather supply chain, by Dr Kerry Senior, UK Leather Federation.
- New Chrome VI legislation, what is it, by John Hubbard, SATRA Technology Centre, UK.
- Sustainable Leather Production, Warren Bowden, Scottish Leather Group
- Vegetable Tanning, Leticia Melo dos Santos, ICLT, The University of Northampton
- Challenges facing the Bangladeshi Leather Industry, Syed Nasim Manzur, President of Leathergoods & Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh.

A series of awards was presented at this event, and these included:

- The Professional Grade of Licentiate, awarded to Arnold Gerald Britten.
- Professional Grade of Association, awarded to Lei Sun, Anna Lama, Dr Ali Elnaeim Musa.

- Professional Grade of Fellow awarded to J.D.C. Kleynhans, Eldon Leo, and Clive Alan Jackson-Moss.

Last year the SLTC council resolved to give an annual award in honour of the Society's long standing supporter and industry mentor, Axel Landmann.

Known as the Landmann Certificate, this is presented to an individual considered by the SLTC council to have made an outstanding contribution to the leather industry either in terms of science, technology or in promoting the industry. This year the award was bestowed upon John Basford.

John's career started some 60 years ago at British Chrome Tanning, Northampton, together with education in leather science at Northampton Technical College, which has since become part of ICLT, the Northampton University. In 1970 he joined Schill & Sielacher supplying chemicals to the leather industry, and since that time travelled the world extensively spreading his leather-related experience far and wide. Internationally respected for his extensive knowledge of leather technology, and the ability to apply this understanding to the realities of leather manufacture, John continued his association with the leather industry long after his retirement age. He has also produced a practical booklet which lists an array of processing problems, their potential causes and how to remedy them which has been used as reference by leather making professionals. ☺

Conserved and reconstructed Mary Rose leather shoe with slashed decoration.

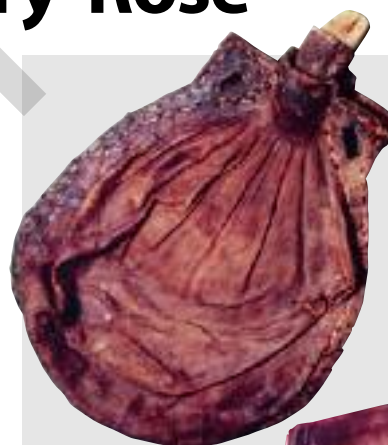




The Mary Rose

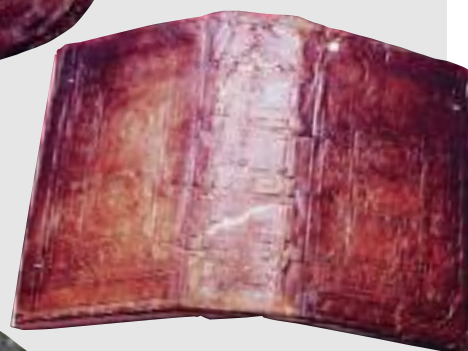
Within months of becoming King of England, Henry VIII commissioned the building of the Mary Rose. Built in Portsmouth in 1509, in the world's first dry dock, the Mary Rose was a highly innovative fighting platform. She was rebuilt in 1536 and fitted with 15 bronze and 76 iron guns, 30 requiring carriages with weighing up to 2.5 tons. Her sealing gun ports enabled heavy guns to be placed low down in the hull therefore increasing her long distance fighting capacity. She fought valiantly during three wars with France, and sank in 1545 in about 12 metres of water with few survivors' whilst defending Portsmouth from a French invasion at the Battle of the Solent. After excavation from the silt, with the help of 600 volunteer divers, The Mary Rose was lifted from the seabed in 1982 in a purpose built cradle. She was then brought home to Portsmouth within a few hundred metres from where she was built. Standing as high as a four story building, and resting in her support cradle, she was sprayed for more than 20 years with a mist of polyethyl glycol before the timbers were dried out. This extensive conservation is now almost complete, and soon the Mary Rose will take her place in the stunning new museum in the heart of Portsmouth's historic dockyard.

More than 19,000 Tudor artefacts have also been recovered from the original site, and thousands of these will be on display. These will include leather shoes from some of the crew of 415 sailors and the unknown number of soldiers, as well as straps, mittens, knotted buttons and scabbards - many bearing embossed decorations. Personal items include purses and pouches (often with contents), comb and watch cases. Other leather items include portable drinking vessels, leather discs or spacers which separated the flights of arrows, straps for suspending quivers of 24 arrows, and protective bracers to prevent abrasion of the forearm with the bracing of the bow. 🌐



Leather flask found in the wreck of the Mary Rose.

A leather book cover with embossed design.



Fire bellows – the air flaps are of leather.