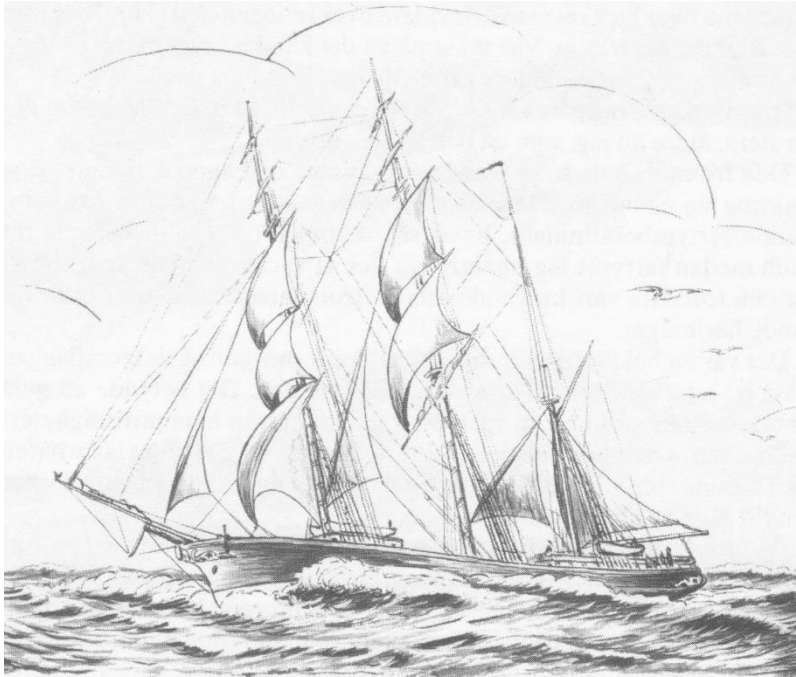


Wreck of The Providentz discovered by Mandal dive club 300 years after it sank.



On the 22nd of September 1721 according to the Julian calendar, The Providentz, sailed out of Cork harbour in Ireland bound for Arendal, Norway. The ship was laden with a cargo of butter, corn, grain, and malt, among other merchandise. The ship and cargo belonged to a father and son Joseph and Walter Lavit. The Providentz arrived at Tregde harbour on the 16th of October where it waited for better weather conditions before completing its journey.

Thirteen days later, early on Sunday morning, on the 9th of November, a local pilot came on-board to help guide the ship safely back out to sea, but found the crew drunk. As the pilot called out his instructions, he mixed up port and starboard. This resulted in the ship grounding and subsequently ripping a hole in the port side. The ship quickly sank, luckily all of the crew escaped unharmed, but all cargo and inventory were lost. According to the pilot the crew were falling down drunk and the ship was incapable of steering.

The Lavit family was of enormous importance to the city of Cork. They were an extremely influential family, politically and financially. Joseph and Walter both served as mayors of the city and large areas of the city were named after them.

Joseph Lavit was a Huguenot merchant who came to Cork in 1690 and made a fortune refining sugar and supplying spirits to the Williamite army in Ireland. Lavitt was so unashamed of this source of wealth that he had a small gilded key suspended by silver chains from the richly stuccoed ceiling of his dining room. However, Lavit's business concerns were not restricted to sugar and whiskey, he started Cork's first paper mill at Glanmire and was responsible for the reclamation and development of the quay which bears his name today. By the time one of Joseph Lavit's other sons, Nathaniel died in 1771 he had amassed a fortune of £200,000.

The Providentz voyage is something of a mystery as it was not usual for Irish ships at this time to sail to Norway.



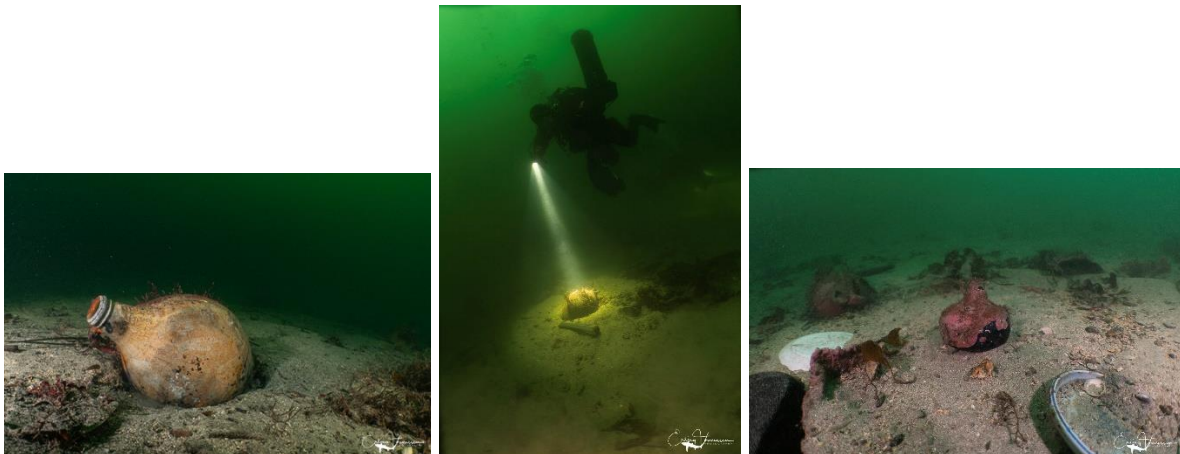
And there the ship lay undiscovered until, at the end of 40 years of searching, Mandal dive club located it 26 December 2020. Together with the Norwegian Maritime Museum, Mandal dive club has retrieved selected loose artefacts from the wreck and established the boundaries of the wreck site. During this work, a very early version of the bearing disc made of slate was found and raised. The archaeologists at NMM have never found or seen anything similar. There are ongoing investigations at NMM as to whether it is possible to locate its origin. This type of bearing discs is equipment normally only a captain or a pilot would have had and one had to have good knowledge to be able to use these for navigation. The find has aroused great interest among archaeologists at NMM. Various forms of bearing washers are known, among others, from Norse seafarers and the ancient Polynesians. These bearing discs were oriented in relation to the Sun and different stars. By knowing the direction of celestial bodies, either in ascent, descent or at its highest (culmination), one could use the bearing disc as a compass - or as a kind of course corrector.



It was then made plans that by the 300th anniversary in 2021 it would be possible to conduct a more in-depth survey of the wreck site by removing layers of sand from the ship's hull.

We are now proud to announce that we have most of the finances in place through funds allocated from the Lindesnes fund. Due to this we are able to start the marine archaeological excavation of this 300-year-old time capsule.

The excavation will be done in cooperation with finders of the wreck, excavation divers, preservation specialists and marine archeologies from Norwegian Maritime Museum.



The excavation will take place in week 38, 20-24 September. The mainland base will be Tregde Vacation center (<https://tregdeferie.no/en/>) where we will receive and start the preservation of all artifacts recovered from the wreck site. This will also be the overnight base for the excavation team during the excavation operation.

The story and destiny of The Providentz is a story that deserves to be told by professionals. Therefore, we would like to give you the opportunity to come and document first-hand this pilot project between Norwegian Maritime Museum and Mandal Dive club.

We are able to set up a live stream from multiple underwater cameras on our fully equipped 50-foot dive boat Mannefjord, together with a 26-meter floating dock as work platform, which will be positioned

directly over the wreck during the operation. The depth is no more than 6-18 meters. We have several professional underwater photographers in our team if there is any need for additional documentation subsea. During the first days we estimate that the excavation divers have conducted a more in-depth survey of the wreck by removing layers of sand covering the remains of the ship, and this will uncover many historical and rare artifacts not seen by man for 300 years. All artifacts that were recovered earlier this year will also be displayed at the mainland base.



We hope you are able to take part in this exciting historical marine excavation. For in depth info or practical detail please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards
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