

HMS *Sirius* Project

**Report on the artefact collection at Norfolk Island
13-26 March 1990**

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May 1990

**Report - Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western
Australian Maritime Museum, No. 39**

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Itinerary

- 13 March Depart Perth QF 373 7.00 p.m.
- 14 March Arrive Auckland 6.40 a.m. Depart Auckland QF 212 2.00 p.m. - arrive Norfolk Island 2.30 p.m. Accommodation at Amble Inn. Pre-dinner drinks (guests of Mike Prentice) and dinner at the Colonial Hotel.
- 15 March Breakfast at the South Pacific Hotel. Set up boatshed. Visited *Sirius* Museum and met Curator Neil Chadwick and Mr David Buffet. 12 m.d. Meeting with the Hon. Gaye Evans, MLA. Lunch at *Sirius* Museum. Visit to hospital to arrange loan of oxygen cylinders for oxy-viva. Gear has not yet arrived. Boat due on Friday 16 March. Dinner at Jim Tavener's.
- 16 March 6 a.m. *Captain Wallis* arrives at Kingston for unloading. Treated copper alloy artefacts from 1988 received from Bevon Nicolai for registration check and numbering (includes pump barrel fragments, copper sheathing etc.). Visited *Sirius* Museum to have a closer look at displays. Took note of artefacts that would require conservation treatment (such as the brass button SI 434 which had turned green) and objects that needed to be more securely displayed (e.g. stone hatchet head). Visited the Archaeological Museum and noticed some *Sirius* artefacts on display in this location (copper alloy clench rings). Met State and Commonwealth delegates visiting Norfolk Island for the Historic Shipwrecks meeting. Dinner at Jim Tavener's, joined by Dr Ian Crawford, Mike McIntyre, Mark Staniforth and David Nutley.
- 17 March Morning spent at boatshed. Stood watch for Graeme and Geoff who swam out to wreck site to try and locate the plinth. Checked *Sirius* catalogue for data to be collected/checked etc. Gave Geoff *et al.* a hand to re-wax the carronade carriage and apply Fertan to the ironwork. Gear off-loaded from *Captain Wallis* mid-afternoon. 7.00 p.m. Buffet Dinner at Government House (Graeme and Myra) to meet His Excellency the Governor General Bill Hayden and Mrs Hayden. Hosts - Mr and Mrs Bruce McDonald (Administrator).
- 18 March Visit to Works Depot to see the carronade, iron ballast etc. Numbered conserved objects at boatshed and drew samples of copper sheathing which demonstrated the way the sheathing nail holes had been punched and the sheathing folded. Visited by various delegates from the Historic Shipwrecks meeting and former curator Robert Varman. Carronade transported to *Sirius* Museum and mounted on gun carriage.
- 19 March Garden Party at Government House.
- 20 March 200th Anniversary celebration of the wrecking of HMS *Sirius*. 9.00 a.m. postage stamp launch. Lunch at the Colonial Hotel. Commemoration plaque laying and opening of the *Sirius* Museum. Visit by His Excellency the Governor General, Bill Hayden and Mrs Hayden, and official guests to the Boatshed to review work undertaken by the *Sirius* Project. Barbeque at Boatshed for State/Commonwealth delegates and islanders.
- 21 March Visited Les Brown (historian) to obtain historical references and loan of HRNSW volume 2. Drew two flintstones SI 407.
- 22 March Inspection of *Sirius* material in strong room with Graeme and Ian. Noted empty bags and loose dymo tags and condition of artefacts.
- 23 March Inspection of artefacts in the *Sirius* Museum, both on display and in store room. Objects re-marked with registration numbers where necessary. Meeting with the Hon. Gaye Evans. Examination of ceramics in the Norfolk Island Museum.
- 23 March Continued inspection and check of artefacts in *Sirius* Museum and in Boatshed conservation workshop. Configuration of rudder gudgeon checked.

24 March Iron objects in Boatshed conservation tubs listed. All treated objects returned to Sirius Museum. Gear packed.

25 March Depart Norfolk - Auckland QF 213. Overnight stay at Airport Travelodge Hotel.

26 March Depart Auckland to Sydney QF 40.
Depart Sydney - Perth QF 23. Arrive Perth 1.25 p.m.

Introduction

Under the *Plan of management, HMS Sirius, wreck, wreck site and relics* the following guide-lines relating to the *Sirius* artefact collection state that:

- . Section 4.8 Arrangements will be made for the site and collection to be inspected regularly by appropriate specialists who will undertake the necessary procedures for site conservation.
- . Section 4.10 Material recovered from or associated with the *Sirius* shall be conserved, housed and curated in a professional manner which ensures -
 - (a) its long term conservation and protection;
 - (b) its consistent and comprehensive documentation to ruling museum standards;
 - (c) its adequate storage, as far as possible in one location;
 - (d) the adequate display to the public of parts of the collection; and
 - (e) its access to *bona fide* researchers.
- . Section 5.2 Arrangements will be made between the Commonwealth and the Norfolk Island Governments for an inspection visit to the *Sirius* site and collection once every 2 years by a maritime archaeologist acquainted with the site and collection. The inspection to be followed by a condition report...

In accordance with the abovementioned clauses, this report firstly presents a condition report based on an inspection of the *Sirius* artefact collection carried out in March 1990 and secondly, recommendations concerning some of the managerial requirements for this collection.

PART 1: Inspection of *Sirius* collection

1. Inspection of *Sirius* artefacts in strong room

The *Sirius* artefacts stored in the strong room were basically found in the condition in which they were packed at the end of the 1988 *Sirius* expedition, that is, individual and/or registered groups of objects were stored in plastic and/or calico bags together with a vinyl dymo tape registration tag, the bags then being housed in polystyrene storage boxes. Some of the larger objects were placed directly into the storage boxes with registration tags attached with nylon fishing line. Apart from several bags of bronze sheathing nails, and a few artefacts still undergoing conservation treatment, all artefacts were numbered during the 1988 season.

At the commencement of the inspection, a number of empty plastic bags containing dymo tags, and loose dymo tags were found in the room. These were listed and their locations determined as follows:

1.1 Empty bags and loose dymo registration tags

Abbreviations:

ANMM	Australian National Maritime Museum
AM	Archaeological Museum (Norfolk Island)
BS	Boat shed (conservation)
PWD	Public Works Depot
SR	Strong room
SMM	<i>Sirius</i> Maritime Museum (Display)
SMS	<i>Sirius</i> Museum Storeroom

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location of object(s)</u>	
SI 4A	Glass	SMM	Case 1
SI 32B	Bolt	SMM	Case 2
SI 80	Stoneware	SMM	Case 4
SI 102	Decanter stopper	SMM	Case 1
SI 165	Bolt	SMM	Case 2

SI 167	Copper sheathing	SMM	Case 2
SI 200	Stoneware	SMM	Case 4
SI 269	Bolt	SMM	Case 2
SI 274	Stoneware	SMM	Case 4
SI 275	Glass stopper	SMM	Case 1
SI 285	Copper fragments - 1x flat strip from chest	SMM	Case 4
SI 301	Clench bolt	ANMM	
SI 309	Planking nails	SMS	
SI 316	Copper cauldron piece	SMM	Case 4
SI 325	Case bottle base	SMM	Case 1
SI 383	Stoneware	SMM	Case 4
SI 432	Colourless glass bottle base	SMM	Case 4
SI 454	Stoneware	SMM	Case 4
SI 463	Copper with bolt holes	SMM	Store
SI 553	Arrow head concretion - [NB this should have been SI 552 Bolt; arrow head conc is in storage tub in Boatshed. Bolt on display re-numbered].	BS	Conservation tub
SI 566	Sheathing nails	SMS	
SI 622	Sheathing nails in concretion (from 1988 Exped).	SMS	

NOTE: At the end of the 1988 expedition, there were several bags of bronze sheathing nails which had either broken during conservation treatment and/or the registration tags had become misplaced. Due to lack of time, some bags could not be identified with appropriate registration numbers and were placed in a 'Too Hard Bag' along with the calico bags of sheathing nails. The latter still need to be brushed and individually numbered with their registration number. During the 1990 season there was insufficient time for this work to be carried out.

1.2 Artefacts requiring treatment

Each individual artefact, or bag of artefacts, was inspected with regard to its state of preservation (see MacLeod, 1990). A few items required some additional treatment but this was minimal.

Reg. No.	Description	Comments
SI 28	Whalebone)	Mouldy and needed treatment. Raised from Site 5.
SI 38	Whalebone)	Probably associated with <i>Mary Hamilton</i> rather than <i>Sirius</i> .
SI 39	Whalebone)	
SI 235	Lead fragments	Showed signs of corrosion. Cleaned and treated.
SI 554	Copper sheathing	Signs of active corrosion. Re-treated.

1.3 Artefacts selected for analysis

During inspection, certain objects were selected for their analytical potential as follows:

SI 15	1 Bolt (copper alloy): stress corrosion, cracking, poor cast. From Site 5. Analysis to determine composition and comparison with fastenings from main wreck site.
SI 228-1	2 Planking nails (copper alloy) with die heads. From Site 1: Area 001.
SI 228-2	Analysis to determine composition of metal for comparative purposes.
SI 254	2 Clench rings showing erosion corrosion patterns and 1 fragment. From Site 1: Area 008. Analysis to determine degree and nature of corrosion.
SI 357	1 Copper sheathing strip. From Site 1: Area 008.

		Analysis to determine structure and composition.
SI 465	8	Copper sheathing fragments, one with bronze sheathing nail <i>in situ</i> . Analysis to determine structure and composition.
SI 491	1	Copper sheathing with caulking. From Site 1: Area 002-003. Analysis to check on acidity of material.

The aim of the analysis of the copper alloy fastenings is to provide further data regarding the metallurgical composition of a range of fastenings from the *Sirius* which may provide more conclusive information in respect of the material recovered from Site 5, i.e. whether it may be attributed to the *Sirius* or not (MacLeod, 1985: 59; Stanbury, 1990: 11). As to the copper sheathing, it has been noted that this varies slightly in thickness, there being a relatively thin type and a less malleable thicker variety. Analysis may indicate differences in structure and composition which may shed some light on the functional properties or uses of the sheathing on different parts of the ship's hull and/or its relative placement over time.

Samples taken and sent for analysis 7 May 1990.

2. Inspection of *Sirius* artefacts on display in *Sirius* Maritime Museum

2.1 OPEN DISPLAY: Aboriginal stone hatchet head

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 479	Stone hatchet head	OK - should be in <u>secure</u> display situation.

2.2 OPEN DISPLAY: Gudgeon/pintles etc.

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
NI 2	Spectacle plate	Required attention
NI 4	Bronze strap	OK
NI 11	Rudder chains	OK
NI 15	Horse-plate	OK
NI 17	Gudgeon bracket	OK
NI 18	Gudgeon bracket	OK
NI 19	Gudgeon bracket	OK
NI 43	Bronze strap	OK
SI 87	Gudgeon/pintle strap	OK
SI 162-1	Lag screw	OK In strap SI 237. Not very secure.
SI 237	Gudgeon strap	OK
SI 354	Bolt - section	OK In strap NI 43. Not very secure.
SI 397	Pintle	OK

2.3 OPEN DISPLAY: Anchor/carronade

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 58	Trunnion carronade	Put on display 19/3/90
NI 20	Anchor	

An old wooden barrel with signs of infestation and rusting hoops was situated near the anchor stock. This was removed to avoid spread of the infestation and keep the area clean of rusting debris. Other miscellaneous debris (loose screws, metal shavings etc.) also needed to be cleaned away.

The carriage for the carronade built in 1988 required cleaning (to remove white paint splatters and other marks from the woodwork, cobwebs and dust etc.) prior to the carronade being mounted. Some of the iron fittings were showing signs of rust and these were re-coated with Ferton. After cleaning, the wooden parts of the carriage were wax polished.

2.4 CASE 1: Brass objects and glass ["Blue" case]

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition/comments</u>
SI 4	Case bottle fragment	OK
SI 81	Tumbler base	OK
SI 102	Decanter stopper	OK
SI 163	Brass tap	OK
SI 238	Brass shoulder belt plate	OK
SI 275	Flat oblong head stopper	OK
SI 325	Case bottle base	OK
SI 348	Wall/furniture mount - urn & laurel leaves	OK
SI 367	Brass shoulder belt plate	OK
SI 370	Brass beading fragment	OK
SI 395	Brass tap spigot	OK
SI 398	Brass tap	OK
SI 512	Brass stove leg	OK
SI 527	Wall/furniture mount - patera design	OK
SI 573	Brass beaded fascia strip	OK

2.5 CASE 2: Fastenings/copper and lead sheathing

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition/comments</u>
SI 32B	Copper alloy bolt	OK
SI 43	Bronze bolt	OK
SI 62	Deck nail/spike	OK
SI 141-4	Copper alloy, lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 165	Clench bolt	OK
SI 269	Clench bolt	OK
SI 352-1	Deck nail/spike	OK
SI 381	Clench bolt	OK
SI 396	Bolt	OK
SI 416-1	Deck nail/spike	OK
SI 444-1	Deck nail/spike	OK
SI 445	Deck nail/spike	OK
SI 552	Bolt	OK - previously marked 553 re-numbered.
SI 92 (1)	Lag screw	OK
SI 92 (2)	Lag screw	OK
SI 92 (3)	Lag screw	OK
SI 92 (4)	Lag screw	OK
SI 93-1	Rudder nail	OK
SI 93-2	Rudder nail	OK
SI 162-2	Lag screw	OK
SI 162-3	Lag screw	OK
SI 162-4	Lag screw	OK
SI 162-5	Lag screw	OK
SI 164-3	Rudder nail	OK
SI 242-1	Rudder nail	OK

SI 242-2	Rudder nail	OK
SI 256-1	Lag screw	OK
SI 256-2	Lag screw	OK
SI 263-4	Rudder nail	OK
SI 323-1	Rudder nail	OK
SI 323-2	Rudder nail	OK
SI 323-3	Rudder nail	OK
SI 323-4	Rudder nail	OK
SI 351	Rudder nail	OK
SI 408	Copper keel staple	OK
SI 66	Lead sheathing with fastening	OK
SI 73	Lead sheathing	OK
SI 83	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 83	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 167	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 167	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 183	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 380	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 399	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 515	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 534 (1)	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 534 (2)	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 534 (3)	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 534 (4)	Copper sheathing	OK

Dead insect (unidentified) in showcase.

2.6 CASE 3: Pump case

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 22	Brick marked 'Hickman'	OK - Not <i>Sirius</i> : poss <i>Mary Hamilton</i> (Site 5 material)
SI 46	Bronze coak	OK - re-numbered
SI 89	Bronze coak	OK
SI 91	Ring (copper alloy)	OK
SI 140	Brass tube with turning marks	OK
SI 174	Ring with 3 holes and impressed '9'	OK
SI 214-1	Rudder nail	OK
SI 236	Bronze pump barrel	OK
SI 254 (1)	Clench ring	OK
SI 254 (2)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (1)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (2)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (3)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (4)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (5)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (6)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (7)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (8)	Clench ring	OK
SI 255 (9)	Clench ring	OK
SI 262 (1)	Machine bolt	OK ? where are other 2

SI 262 (2)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 287	Lag bolt/screw in concretion	OK
SI 296-1	Machine bolt	OK
SI 296-2	Machine bolt	OK
SI 312 (1)	Clench ring	OK
SI 312 (2)	Clench ring	OK
SI 312 (3)	Clench ring	OK
SI 312 (4)	Clench ring	OK
SI 312 (5)	Clench ring	OK
SI 312 (6)	Clench ring	OK
SI 312 (7)	Clench ring	OK
SI 313 (1)	Clench ring	OK
SI 313 (2)	Clench ring	OK
SI 313 (3)	Clench ring	OK
SI 313 (4)	Clench ring	OK
SI 313 (5)	Clench ring	OK
SI 313 (6)	Clench ring	OK
SI 322 (1)	Machine bolt	OK ? 9 or 10
SI 322 (2)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (3)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (4)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (5)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (6)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (7)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (8)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (9)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 322 (10)	Machine bolt	OK
SI 343	Bronze pump fitting	OK
SI 349 (1)	Clench ring	OK- renumbered, appeared as 319
SI 349 (2)	Clench ring	OK
SI 349 (3)	Clench ring	OK
SI 349 (4)	Clench ring	OK
SI 359	Bone fragment	OK Removed and placed in storage box
SI 373	Unid. flat, right-angle object - ribbed	OK
SI 414-2	Machine bolt	OK
SI 422 (1)	Clench ring	OK
SI 422 (2)	Clench ring	OK
SI 422 (3)	Clench ring	OK
SI 422 (4)	Clench ring	OK
SI 422 (5)	Clench ring	OK
SI 422 (6)	Clench ring	OK
SI	Flint ballast pebbles	

2.7 CASE 4: Coin case

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 4A	Glass fragment	OK

SI 40	Cup sherd, white china	Probably not <i>Sirius</i> . Intrusive archaeological find Site 4.
SI 80	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	OK
SI 80	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	OK
SI 154	Red earthenware sherd	OK
SI 200	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	OK
SI 212	Pewter button fragment	OK-VERY FRAGILE
SI 218	Sounding lead - worn	OK
SI 245	Brass button	OK
SI 274	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	OK
SI 277	Pewter button	Small chip out where second '7' was written making number appear SI 27. Re-numbered with correct number. VERY FRAGILE
SI 285-1	Copper strip ? from chest	OK
SI 316	Copper - part of cauldron	OK
SI 326	1 Bottle glass fragment	OK
SI 356 (1)	Diamond shape copper rove	OK
SI 356 (2)	Diamond shape copper rove	OK
SI 358 (1)	Square of lead	OK
SI 358 (2)	Folded piece of lead	OK
SI 368	Pewter button	OK-VERY FRAGILE
SI 383 (1)	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	Both fit together. Glued with UHU
SI 383 (2)	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	UHU
SI 403	1 piece of coal	OK
SI 427 A	Pewter button - complete, with anchor motif	OK- VERY FRAGILE
SI 427 B	Pewter button - section	OK- VERY FRAGILE
SI 427 C	Pewter button - nearly complete	OK- VERY FRAGILE
SI 432	Colourless bottle base	OK
SI 434	Brass button	Required attention
SI 454	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	OK
SI 542	Saltglaze stoneware sherd	OK
SI 579	Copper Maravedís coin	OK- VERY FRAGILE

2.8 CASE 5: Small arms case

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 250	Musket balls	OK Not counted
SI 251	16 Lead shot - rough cast, half balls	OK
SI 278	Musket balls	OK [Should be 18]
SI 331	1 lead shot with protruberance	OK
SI 333	Pistol shot	OK
SI 374	Ramrod pipe	OK
SI 418	Lead shot, diam c. 13 mm	OK Not counted
SI 428	Wrist escutcheon from Land Pattern musket	OK
SI 431	Ramrod pipe	OK
SI 433	Ramrod pipe	OK
SI 511	Canister shot	Required attention

2.9 CASE 6: Sextant/pantograph

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition/comments</u>
SI 147	Sextant	OK
NI 15	Part of pantograph	OK
SI 108	Wheel assembly from pantograph	OK
SI 239	Pantograph arm	OK
SI 240	Pointer from pantograph	OK
SI 334	Wheel assembly from pantograph	OK Attached to NI 15
SI 489	Sleeve for pointer	OK Attached to SI 239

Most of the glass in the show cases needed to be cleaned to remove mould spores (see MacLeod, 1990:5) and at least one dead insect was noted in a prominent position in display case No. 2.

3. Inspection of artefacts in *Sirius* Maritime Museum Storage

3.1 CARDBOARD BOX 1: Textiles

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition/comments</u>
SI 387	Linen from grape shot	Small crawling insects found inside box. Underside of lid and adjacent layer of acid-free paper sprayed with fumigant to protect textiles from attack. Textiles otherwise OK.
SI 466	Linen from grape shot	
SI 501	String - small piece	
SI 507	Linen from grape shot	
SI 523	Linen fragment	
SI 576	Linen fragment	

3.2 CARDBOARD BOX 2: Wood etc.

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition/comments</u>
SI 188	Wood fragment	Silverfish present.
SI 222	Wood fragment	
SI 328	Reed or bristle (poss from broom)	
SI 344	Wood fragment (softwood)	
SI 365	Reed or bristle (poss from broom)	
SI 365	Wood fragment	
SI 365	Wood fragment	
SI 483	Wood fragment	
SI 520	6 x Wood fragments	
SI 561	2 x Wood fragments (oak)	
SI 561	3 x Wood fragments	

Box sprayed with fumigant as for textiles (see MacLeod, 1990: 5).

3.3 CARDBOARD BOX 3: Miscellaneous

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition/comments</u>
SI 76	Brass spacer	OK
SI 77	Wheel assembly from pantograph - v. worn	OK
SI 90 - 1	Part of index arm of sextant	OK
SI 90 - 2	Part of index arm of sextant	OK
SI 90A	Part of crosspiece of sextant	OK
SI 111	Unid. brass fitting	
SI 149	Unid. flat, U-shaped object	OK - FRAGILE
SI 159	Unid. brass object ? part of navigation instrument	OK

SI 160	Circular fitting, part of horizon glass adjustment of sextant	OK
SI 175	Ring (brass) fragment	OK
SI 176	Ring (brass) with countersunk holes: marked 10	OK
SI 177	Strap fragment - part of sextant	OK
SI 195	Washer/spacer - poss. from sextant or navigation dividers	OK
SI 197	Unid. flat, curved object	OK
SI 219	Index arm of sextant	OK
SI 226	Unid. flat, curved object. ? sextant crosspiece	OK
SI 280	2 x Unid bronze fittings	OK
SI 334A	Circular fitting/bearing from sextant index arm	OK
SI 359	Bone fragment	OK
SI 406	Part of brass telescope from sextant	OK - FRAGILE
SI 429	Spacer with four holes ? from sextant index arm	OK
SI 487	Spacer/washer ? from sextant	OK
SI 488	Tangent screw from sextant	OK
SI 490	Shade mount from sextant	OK
SI 529	Brass buckle - 2 parts	Was glued together but now separate. FRAGILE
SI 530	Unid. brass object - ? part of dividers	OK
SI 550	Leather shoe sole	(FeSO ₄) 4H ₂ O crystals on surface. Needs to be below RH 60%
SI 560	Side arm of sextant with Broad Arrow	OK
SI 580	Brass object - poss. end of sextant index arm	OK
SI 244	Dividers	OK
SI 421	Dividers	OK

3.4 MUSEUM STORE ROOM BOX

The following items were located in the *Sirius* Maritime Museum store room/office. They were unsecure and hidden under various items of cleaning equipment - dusters, brooms, polish etc. - which had been placed on top of and/or surrounding the items in the box. Rotting food, dirty sandwich wrappers and other rubbish located in the room was removed to prevent further infestation of fragile material, particularly the textiles. Specially fabricated storage boxes for items on display were collected together. These should be kept clean and available for future use should objects be taken off display and require safe storage and/or for transportation should fragile objects need to be transferred to another location.

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 27	Iron bolt	OK Boat shed
SI 32	Bolt	OK
SI 32A	Bolt	OK
SI 32C	Bolt	OK
SI 39	Whalebone - small piece	Needed treatment
SI 44	Keel staple	OK
SI 59	Part of keel staple	OK
SI 60	Part of keel staple	OK
SI 61	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 64	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 74	Keel staple	OK
SI 82	Bottle glass fragments	OK
SI 93-3	Rudder nail	OK

SI 94	Forelock bolt	OK
SI 103	Basalt ware	OK
SI 117	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 113	Sheathing nails	OK
SI 120	Part of keel staple	OK
SI 121	Sheathing nails	OK
SI 125	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 131	Deck nails	OK
SI 132-1	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 132-2	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 136	Keel staple	OK
SI 138	Keel staple	OK
SI 141-1	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 141-2	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 141-3	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 141-5	Lead sheathing nail	OK
SI 146	Glass fragments	OK
SI 155	Glass fragments	OK
SI 164	2 Rudder nails	OK
SI 169 A	Glass fragments	OK
SI 173	Rudder nail	OK
SI 181	Decanter stopper - worn	OK
SI 182	Glass fragments	OK
SI 184	Glass fragment	OK
SI 183	Bottle glass fragments	OK
SI 185	Glass fragments	OK
SI 196	Brass tap fitting ?	OK
SI 201	Glass fragment	OK
SI 202	Glass fragments	OK
SI 203	Glass fragments	OK
SI 211	Glass fragments	OK
SI 214	Rudder nail	OK
SI 217	Glass fragments	OK
SI 221	Lag bolt	OK
SI 223	Glass fragments	OK
SI 225	Sheathing nails	OK
SI 232	Glass fragments	OK
SI 241	Bolt	OK
SI 246	Glass fragments	OK
SI 250 x 21	Musket balls	OK
SI 250 - rest	Musket balls	OK
SI 263	Rudder nails	OK
SI 263 x 3	Rudder nails	OK
SI 267	Planking nails	OK
SI 279	Bolt	OK
SI 285-2	Copper fragment	OK
SI 288	Sheathing nails	OK
SI 290	Glass fragments	OK
SI 291	Glass fragments	OK
SI 295	Copper roves	OK
SI 299	Glass fragments	OK
SI 300	Slate point	OK

SI 302	Glass fragments	OK
SI 306	Rose head nails	OK
SI 307	Rose head nails	OK
SI 308	Planking nails	OK
SI 309	2 planking nails	OK
SI 313	2 Clench rings	OK
SI 318	Copper roves	OK
SI 319	Bolt	OK
SI 331	1 Lead shot	OK
SI 339	Glass fragment	OK
SI 341	Keel staple	OK
SI 349	5 Clench rings	OK
SI 352-2	Deck nail	OK
SI 353	Planking nail	OK
SI 356	Copper roves	OK
SI 358	Lead sheeting	OK
SI 361	4 Planking nails	OK
SI 385	Glass stopper fragment	OK
SI 386	Glass fragments	OK
SI 409	Planking nails	OK
SI 415	Rudder nail	OK
SI 426	Copper roves	OK
SI 436	Propolis ? (yellow substance)	OK
SI 443	Planking nails	OK
SI 444-2	Part of deck nail	OK
SI 453	Flint pebble ballast	OK
SI 456	Glass stopper fragment	OK
SI 463	Copper sheet	OK
SI 464	Glass fragments	OK
SI 478	Glass fragments	OK
SI 481	Basalt ware sherd	OK
SI 481	Basalt ware	OK
SI 485	Bolt head	OK
SI 493	Lead shot	OK
SI 494	Lead shot	OK
SI 495	Glass fragments	OK
SI 498	Bolt	OK
SI 500	Glass fragments	OK
SI 510	Glass fragments	OK
SI 514	Glass fragments	OK
SI 518	Glass fragments	OK
SI 518A	Glass fragments	OK
SI 519B	Basalt ware sherd	OK
SI 534	Copper sheathing	OK
SI 536	Glass fragments	OK
SI 539	Glass fragments	OK
SI 543	Glass fragments	OK
SI 564	Basalt ware sherd	OK
SI 566	Sheathing nails	OK

3.5 BOX OF PEBBLE BALLAST

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 70	Flint pebble ballast	

SI 101	Flint pebble ballast
SI 119	Flint pebble ballast
SI 124	Flint pebble ballast
SI 286	Flint pebble ballast
SI 329	Flint pebble ballast
SI 425	Flint pebble ballast
SI 459	Flint pebble ballast
SI 535	Flint pebble ballast

4. *Sirius* artefacts in conservation storage in Boatshed

The following artefacts were checked during testing and changing of storage solutions:

4.1 1987 CONSERVATION TUB: Concretions

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 233	Concretion with copper sheathing, part iron bolt & flat-sided mould of iron object.	
SI 239	Pantograph concretion	
SI 553	Arrow head impression in concretion	
SI 590	Anchor fluke	
SI 611	Cannon ball concretion	

4.2 1987 CONSERVATION TUB: Cannon balls and canister shot

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 50	Unid. tool	
SI 51	Unid. iron frag.	
SI 100	Grape shot	
SI 116	Wrought iron ring (chainplate)	
SI 122	Iron bolt (with wrought iron	
SI 204	Grape shot	
SI 243	Grape shot	
SI 292	Unid. iron object - poss. tool	
SI 305	Grape shot	
SI 324	Unid. iron frag.	
SI 366	Unid. mineralised object ? tool (in two halves)	
SI 379	Cannon ball	
SI 387	Grape shot	
SI 388	Grape shot	
SI 389	Grape shot	
SI 390	Grape shot	
SI 391	Grape shot	
SI 392	Grape shot	
SI 393	Canister/ case shot	
SI 394	3 x frags of canister shot	
SI 400	Cannon ball	
SI 401	Cannon ball	
SI 402	Cannon ball	
SI 424	Cast iron rod fragments: langrel shot ?	
SI 452	Cannon ball	
SI 467	Grape shot	
SI 468	Grape shot	
SI 469	Canister/grape shot	
SI 470	Canister/grape shot	
SI 471	Grape shot	

SI 472	Grape shot
SI 473	Canister/case shot
SI 474	Canister/case shot
SI 475	Grape shot etc.
SI 502	Grape shot
SI 503	Grape shot
SI 504	Grape shot etc.
SI 505	Grape shot
SI 506	Gape shot etc.
SI 508	Grape shot
SI 509	Unid. wooden plug with brass wire coil - iron impregnated
SI 516	Cannon ball
SI 523	Canister/case shot
SI 524	Canister/case shot
SI 525	Canister/case shot
SI 526	Grape shot etc.
SI 537	Cannon ball
SI 544	Cannon ball
SI 545	Cannon ball
SI 546	Cannon ball
SI 547	Cannon ball
SI 548	Grape shot
SI 549	Cannon ball
SI 551	Canister/case shot
SI 556	Grape shot
SI 557	Canister/case shot
SI 558	Canister/case shot
SI 559	Canister/case shot
SI 567	Grape shot etc.

4.3 1988 CONSERVATION TUB: Cannon balls

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition/comments</u>
SI 581	Cannon ball	
SI 582	Cannon ball	
SI 583	Cannon ball	
SI 584	Cannon ball	
SI 585	Cannon ball	
SI 586	Cannon ball	
SI 587	Cannon ball	
SI 588	Cannon ball	
SI 589	Cannon ball	
SI 594	Cannon ball	
SI 596	Cannon ball	
SI 598	Cannon ball	
SI 599	Cannon ball	
SI 600	Cannon ball	
SI 601	Cannon ball	
SI 602	Cannon ball	
SI 603	Cannon ball	
SI 604	Cannon ball	
SI 605	Cannon ball	
SI 606	Cannon ball	

SI 607	Cannon ball
SI 608	Cannon ball
SI 609	Cannon ball
SI 610	Cannon ball
SI 614	Cannon ball
SI 615	Cannon ball

4.4 CONSERVATION JAR: Organic Material (in PEG and Panacide: solution changed)

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 123	Bark	
SI 150	Wood	
SI 170	Wood	
SI 205	Wood	
SI 206	Horsehair ?	
SI 268	Wood	
SI 384	Wood	
SI 420	Wood	
SI 499	Wood	
SI 577	Wood	

4.5 OBJECTS FROM SITE 5 - probably *Mary Hamilton*

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 9	Iron deck support	Treatment complete
SI 18	Strap plate - iron	Treatment complete
SI 19	Wrought iron bolt	Treatment complete
SI 20	Wrought iron bolt	Treatment complete
SI 24	Shackle with eyebolt (iron)	Treatment complete
SI 25	Mast hoop (iron)	Treatment complete
SI 29	Iron deck support	Treatment complete
SI 41	Wrought iron fitting	Treatment complete

4.6 TREATMENT COMPLETE - Returned to *Sirius* Maritime Museum Store Room

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 45	Bronze sheathing nails	
SI 45 - 1	Lead sheathing nail	
SI 45 - 2	Lead sheathing nail	
SI 45 - 3	Lead sheathing nail	
SI 45	1 Small copper alloy tube section 6.6 mm diam - unidentified	
SI 407	2 gunflints	
SI 618	22 Pump housing fragments. Large pieces fit with SI 236.	
SI 618	Semi-circular fragment ? from pump or instrument	
SI 621	Copper sheathing pieces	
SI 622	Sheathing nails in concretion	
SI 627	8 Sheathing nails + 2 heads - found loose in bag in <i>Sirius</i> Maritime Museum.	

5. Objects in conservation storage at Public Works Depot

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 37	Iron ballast pig	See MacLeod, 1990.
SI 208	Iron ballast pig	
SI 563	Iron ballast pig	
SI 597	Iron ballast pig	
SI 612	Iron ballast pig	

SI 613	Iron ballast pig
SI 619	Iron ballast pig
SI 620	Iron ballast pig
SI 623	Iron ballast pig

6. Objects not sighted

The following objects could not be located and were therefore not sighted. Some of these items may be part of the representative collection loaned to the Australian Maritime Museum, Sydney.

Reg. No.	Description	Condition/comments
SI 79	2 Small copper pieces, flat, round.	
SI 84	Flint pebble ballast	
SI 105	5 Lead shot	To ANMM ?
SI 130	1 Lead sheathing nail (copper alloy)	
SI 152	Green glass bottle top	? in Case 1 and missed
SI 153	Green glass fragments	
SI 157	141 Sheathing nails + 9 fragments in strong room, i.e. tag lost.	Possibly in 'Too hard box'
SI 191	10 Small nails	
SI 194	2 Lead shot	
SI 213	Eroded clench ring	
SI 234	Pebble ballast	
SI 259	Pebble ballast	To ANMM ?
SI 298	1 Sheathing nail	
SI 301	Copper clench bolt	To ANMM ?
SI 315	34 Musket balls	
SI 317	Copper pieces: 1x20 mm wide band w/rivet; 1 x 30 mm wide w/folded edge.	
SI 320	Deck nail/spike	To ANMM ?
SI 347	2 Porcelain sherds , one with blue on white pattern	
SI 350	1 Clench ring	To ANMM ?
SI 355	4 Machine bolts	To ANMM ?
SI 430	Bronze ring, pulley coak ?	
SI 438	6 Copper roves, diamond shape	
SI 484	3 Lag bolts	
SI 486	Brass pin - shank only	Missing at end of 1988 season
SI 496	141 Sheathing nails + fragments in strong room.	Possibly in 'Too hard box'
SI 528	1 Musket ball	
SI 538	1 Musket ball - half	
SI 555	6 Sheathing nails in strong room	Tag lost - in 'Too hard box'
SI 592	4 Sheathing nails	? A/A
SI 593	3 Glass fragments	
SI 595	2 Earthenware sherds - glazed (fit tog.)	
SI ? No	Clench rings	Archaeological Museum (AM)

SUMMARY

The examination of the *Sirius* artefact collection in the Strong Room, *Sirius* Maritime Museum, Boatshed and Public Works Depot was primarily aimed at checking the condition of the objects. At the same time, however, an attempt was made to clarify the location of artefacts since there appeared to be

no rational listing (or indication in empty numbered bags in the Strong Room) as to where objects had been re-located. This, together with the necessary selection of a few items only from multiple registered lots, made it difficult to assess whether the total artefact numbers were correct for each registration. After the inspection was completed, it was noted that a number of registrations had not been sighted and these are listed in Section 6 above.

During the inspection of artefacts on display it was noted that one copper bolt had an incorrect registration number (the consecutive registration number having been given to it). The old number was removed and the correct one applied. It was further noted that some of the numbers written on artefacts with rough surfaces (e.g. eroded clench rings) were not very legible and these too were re-numbered.

PART 2: Recommendations

1. Movement of artefacts

When artefact collections are stored and/or displayed in different locations it can become extremely difficult keeping track of where objects are at any one point in time. This is especially the case where multiple registrations are split, some of the items being placed on display in one or more locations and others staying in storage. At present, the *Sirius* artefact collection is spread between:

- (a) Display venues
 - Sirius* Maritime Museum (SMM)
 - Norfolk Island Archaeological Museum (AM)
 - Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM)
- (b) Conservation storage areas
 - Boatshed (BS)
 - Public Works Depot (PWD)
- (c) Storage areas
 - Sirius* Maritime Museum Store Room/Office (SMS)
 - Legislative Assembly Strong Room (SR)

Until the *Sirius* computer database can be transferred to a computer system on Norfolk Island, and the artefact movement monitored in this way it is recommended that:

- 1.1. a record of the location of all artefacts be entered on the card index catalogue (based on the computer catalogue) that has been commenced on specially formatted, printed cards for the *Sirius* collection;
- 1.2. where a multiple registration is split, the number of objects and their location should be recorded (e.g. SI 000 20 Clench rings - 10 on display SMM; 10 in store SR);
- 1.3. the display cases and open displays in the *Sirius* Maritime Museum be numbered and/or named on a plan such that an artefact can be located in a specific display locale;
- 1.4. the registration number of the displayed object(s) be included on the display label for easy identification. This procedure is adopted at the WA Maritime Museum (see attached copy of display label);
- 1.5. a note placed in the empty storage bag/box with dymo tag as to where the object(s) is/are located;
- 1.6. a job card and/or register kept of all artefacts being treated/retreated in the Boatshed conservation laboratory.

2. Storage of artefacts

Until an appropriate cabinet can be acquired for the sole storage of the *Sirius* artefact collection the present storage facility in the Strong Room is satisfactory both from an environmental and security point of view. Continued storage of artefacts in the polystyrene boxes, however, does not allow for

rational storage of the collection, for easy access should *bona fide* researchers wish to view or study the artefacts, or for artefact inspections/inventories to be carried out efficiently.

Under present conditions, storage of artefacts in the *Sirius* Maritime Museum Store Room/Office is not presently deemed to be secure (unless the door is kept locked when the room is not being used). Nor is it a suitable environment, particularly for fragile objects such as the textiles. At present, the room appears to be used for a variety of functions, some of which (e.g. storage of comestibles, cleaning equipment etc.) are not compatible with the storage and/or handling of artefacts.

It is recommended that:

- 2.1. a suitable cabinet with provision for locking be obtained as soon as possible for storing conserved artefacts;
- 2.2. if artefacts are to be stored in the *Sirius* Maritime Museum Store Room/Office for any period of time, they be:
 - (a) given security priority
 - (b) placed in a plastic Nally tub (or similar container) with sealable lid to protect them from accidental damage; to keep them clean and free from dust, salt deposit, etc.; to avoid unnecessary exposure to ultra-violet light; and, make them less vulnerable to insect attack (silverfish, ants, cockroaches etc.;
- 2.3. if artefacts are to be stored in the drawers/cupboards beneath the display cases as a temporary expedient, that a facility be made available solely for this purpose such that artefacts are not liable to become lost and/or damaged through contact with incompatible materials also being stored in the location; and,
- 2.4. all artefacts in storage be accompanied by a dymo tag with the registration number to ensure that the object can be identified should the number on the object get rubbed off or not be clearly legible (the high humidity at the time of marking in 1988 caused difficulty with the drying of ink and varnish and some marked numbers may not be as stable as they should be).

3. Display of artefacts

Several artefacts on display in the *Sirius* Maritime Museum are extremely fragile, in particular the pewter buttons and the copper coin. It was noted that one of the pewter buttons had lost a chip out of the edge where the registration number was originally written. Until a dehumidification system can be set up in the Museum to control the dampness and accompanying problems with mould, it will be necessary to clean the glass in the show cases regularly, both inside and out. This means that objects displayed on glass shelving will necessarily have to be handled and moved when this procedure is carried out.

It is therefore recommended that:

- 3.1. special perspex and/or other suitable display modules be fabricated to display the copper coin, pewter buttons and any similar fragile objects such that the module can be moved without the object itself needing to be directly handled. These modules should ideally offer independent stability for the artefact and allow the object to be viewed in all its aspects;
- 3.2. if any of the conserved textile fragments are displayed, they should not be removed from their storage backing modules (which have been specially designed to be independently incorporated into design modules without the need to remove/handle the textile), and should be displayed in accordance with the recommended temperature, humidity and light levels for this type of material.

4. Registration

Section 5.7 of the management guide-lines states that:

The Manager will facilitate the maintenance of a register, initiated by the *Sirius* Project, of all material recovered from the *Sirius* site.

Sirius artefact registration data are currently held in a field register and on an Omnis database program for Macintosh computer. The Omnis computer database, however, does not yet include the register of *Sirius* material held by the Norfolk Island Museum and in private collections (i.e. NI registration prefixes). But, a catalogue of this collection may be found in the 1985 *Sirius* Project report (Henderson and Stanbury, *et al.*, 1985: 109-121).

The most up-to-date information (i.e. more accurate identification of objects etc.) relating to the *Sirius* collection is on the computer database but needs some additional input to modify certain variables (e.g. locational grid references). Once this is done, however, it should be possible to export the data in a tab delimited text format such that it can be imported and used with a compatible database program (e.g. Omnis, D-base, 4th Dimension) on another computer system. Unfortunately, the limited time on Norfolk Island in 1990 precluded a full investigation of the available computer facilities. It is known, however, that Macintosh computers are used in the Norfolk Island school.

There is clearly a need for working documents to be available on the island and regular computer print outs have been (and will continue to be) provided until such time as a computer database can be set up on Norfolk Island. Meanwhile, the development of a card-index file will be a useful accompaniment to the computer database as a hard-copy permanent reference file. With these two operating systems, the maintenance of a conventional written register as per normal museum procedures would not appear to be an essential requirement and would merely triplicate information.

At this stage it is recommended that:

- 4.1. the card-index file be completed as a permanent working hard-copy artefact reference file;
- 4.2. the availability of a computer and appropriate software to set up a *Sirius* database on Norfolk Island be investigated, the existing *Sirius* data file to be exported as a tab-delimited text file;
- 4.3. the possibility of writing and supplying an Omnis program disk for use with the *Sirius* data file on a Macintosh computer be investigated. [This will involve checking the terms of reference of the Omnis software licensing agreement held by the Department of Maritime Archaeology, WA Maritime Museum];
- 4.4. a complete set of up-dated computer print outs pertaining to the *Sirius* collection be supplied by the *Sirius* Project.

5. Documentation

During the March 1990 expedition, discussions cast some doubt as to the whereabouts of the various *Sirius* Project reports and publications. In order that these should be accessible to those needing to use them for research and/or other purposes it is recommended that:

- 5.1. two sets of *Sirius* Project reports be made available, one set to be located in the Norfolk Island Library and the other in the *Sirius* Maritime Museum;
- 5.2. a collection of reprints and/or copies or articles relating to the *Sirius* Project be compiled and housed in a suitable location;
- 5.3. a bibliography of published and unpublished works relating to the *Sirius* be compiled as a reference source.