

Atlantis: A Voyage through the History of Oceanography

MARINE POLICY CENTER Group, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

The American Institute of Physics in College Park, Maryland is in the process of working with the Lamont-Dougherty Earth Observatory to make an exhibit available to the public on the evolution of Marine Geophysics, using the voyages of R/V Vema from 1953 through 1981 as a central unifying theme. (I believe it is a physical as well as virtual exhibit) Might the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) do the same thing with the first purpose-built American ocean research vessel, R/V Atlantis? Atlantis served WHOI for 33 years as opposed to Vema's 28. Each of the fundamental disciplines of Oceanography had research time on board so we might throw the historical net wider and deeper. Atlantis also fought a war between 1941 and 1945, enabling valuable progress in geophysics and physical oceanography to name but a few. Having spent years in the late WHOI archivist Bill Dunkle's rich repository of text and imagery in McLean Lab, covering WHOI's evolution so well, I feel confident that the Institution could prepare a truly phenomenal educational experience with Atlantis as the centerpiece.

Dr. Gary E Weir

BASIC PLAN:

Episode 1: *From Copenhagen to Woods Hole*

Sponsorship from the Rockefeller Foundation
Research Mission
Henry Bryant Bigelow
Columbus Iselin
Importance of going to sea

Episode 2: *"You need a ship" Allyn Vine 1930-1933*

Feature: From shotholes on the Jersey shore to the first work at sea on board Atlantis.

Episode 3: *Beginnings 1930 - 1939*

Bigelow administration
Iselin
Feature: At sea with Maurice Ewing and his team from Lehigh University (Worzel, Vine)
Developing instruments in an analog world
Static artifact exhibit and still photos of research at sea.

Episode 4: *War 1939-1945*

Iselin, Smith, and Fye administrations
At sea all-year around
Feature: creation of the BT and the dramatic advances in physical oceanography applied both to undersea warfare and the nature of the medium

Episode 5: *Back to Sea 1946 - 1950*

Fye and Steele administration
Features: Atlantis 141 (Med Cruise)
Collaboration with the Navy
Effectively serving two masters and penetrating the ocean (science and the national defense)

Episode 6: *Conclusion*

Atlantis' contribution to WHOI in the present day
Far beyond a ship name

People, new ships, students, facilities. . .

Feature: Titanic, Black smokers, New ships, Novelty and challenge of living at sea on board; Enhanced by iPads available only to teachers permitting them to explore related topics in each episode more closely with the students.

Context to come. Reference = my book *An Ocean in Common* (2001), Elizabeth Shor, her history of Scripps, Susan Schlee's work, and oral histories in the WHOI archive with the principals by Weir, and Frank Taylor. I shall contact the archive to see what they have for us to use.

I have contacted the archive and they fully support the idea. They have enormous archival resources, including text, oral history, and both still and moving imagery. (12-29-21)

I chose the "features" that stood out in my mind. We can easily change to others to illustrate the diversity and the multi-disciplinary character of oceanography.

Please let me know what you think