



KUNGL ÖRLOGSMANNASÄLLSKAPET
Royal Swedish Society of Naval Sciences

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Nr 4/2024. Kungl. Örlogsmannasällskapets extra sammanträde tisdagen den 9 april 2024.

(För TiS anpassat protokoll)

Det öppna extra sammanträdet ägde rum tisdagen den 9 april med början klockan 1730 för ledamöter på Sjöhistoriska museet i närvaro av 56 ledamöter och inbjudna gäster. Fokus för sammanträdet var inträdesanförandet av nyinvalde korresponderande ledamoten, Professor Andrew Lambert, King's College, London. Sammanträdet har spelats in för att publiceras på hemsidan.

Sammanträdet avslutades med en gemensam middag till en kostnad av 200 kronor (förrätt, varmrätt, lättöl/vatten och kaffe) för ledamöterna.

Ärenden

§ 1 Förklarades sammanträdet för öppnat

§ 2 Hälsade ordföranden gäster och Professor Lambert välkommen med följande ord:

Your Excellency Judith Gough, correspondent fellow Professor Andrew Lambert, fellows. It is a great pleasure to welcome you all today to enjoy Professor Lamberts's inauguration speech.

§ 3 Introducerade OL Christer Hägg Professor Lambert med följande ord;

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Chinese philosopher Confucius wrote 2500 years ago and I quote: "Study history! History contains the secrets of statecraft." This is exactly what we are going to do this evening under the guidance of Professor Andrew Lambert.

He is a worldwide well known and admired maritime historian. He has a Ph.D in war studies from King's College in London 1982 and he has been a lecturer at the RN Staff College as well as the present Joint Services Staff College.

For more than 30 years he has lectured and researched at King's College where he now is the Laughton Professor of Naval History, and the leading light in the internationally recognized Department of War Studies.

He is also well known to the general public after numerous TV appearances in historical documentaries and You Tube lectures. Last year he was the keynote speaker at the International McMullen Maritime History Symposium, the worlds largest of its kind, at the USNA in Annapolis.

Professor Lamberts cv contains a list of books, articles, research reports and studies addressing biography, technology, policy-making, national security, deterrence, crisis management and war. The list is as long as my arm and my time now does not allow me to dwell over those, but rather mention the titles of just

some of the 15 books he has written. The titles will tell you a lot of the scope of his research and writings:

Firstly: The Crimean War: British Grand Strategy against Russia 1853-1856

Where he concludes that the Crimean war was not settled in Crimea but in the Gulf of Finland by a joint British – French naval force, with some logistic help from Sweden, I might add. And then:

War at Sea in the Age of Sail and Nelson: Britannia's God of War.

Admirals: the (11) Naval Commanders who made Britain Great. I will here just add on names of the 12 British admirals who commanded the 19 Baltic Fleets that were organized and deployed to the Baltic to defend the freedom of navigation and trade and in some cases Sweden itself for 350 years. So hear this; Admirals Ayscue, Godsonn, Montagu, Rooke, Norris (5 times), Byng, Hyde Parker, Nelson, Gambier, Saumarez (5 times), Napier and the latest – so far - Cowan who will be a part of the history presented in a moment.

Next: The Challenge: Britain versus America in the Naval War of 1812. Winner of the R C Anderson Medal of the Society for Nautical Research for the best maritime history book of 2012. And lately two powerful volumes:

Seapower States: Maritime Culture, Continental Empires and the conflict that made the modern world. Which the Chinese Navy, not surprisingly, were among the first to translate to study in detail.

And the latest: The British Way of War: Julian Corbett and the Battle for a National Strategy.

They all give a tremendous insight of the buildup of navies and their strategic and operational theoretical foundations and practical use at different times in history and of course of the men who lead and served in them.

In his books the reader senses the strong presence of the timeless influence of maritime strategic principles from ancient ages down to our own time and he will better understand how these principles can be applied today. Thereby he will be better equipped to peek into the near future. This is Confucious teaching through and through.

Last year, Professor Lambert was invited to become a correspondent fellow of our 253 years old Royal Society of Naval Sciences and we are indeed very honored and pleased that he has accepted.

The best is of course that Professor Lambert is here this evening to present his inauguration speech on the subject: Seapower solution – The Baltic and British policy 1919.

His paper will be printed in the May issue of our Journal and the video recording will soon be laid out at the Society's website. So, without further ado, Professor Lambert, please, the floor is yours.

§ 4 Höll korresponderande ledamoten, Professor Andrew Lambert, King's College, London sitt inträdesanförande i ämnet "Seapower solution: the Baltic in British policy 1919" med följande historiska bakgrund:

1919 var den säkerhetspolitiska situationen i Östersjöområdet kaotisk; i Ryssland pågick ett inbördeskrig mellan de röda och de vita och i Finland hade inbördeskriget avslutats året innan. Tyska trupper opererade i Baltikum och Ålandsfrågan var

olöst, vilket orsakade spänningar mellan Sverige och Finland. De Baltiska staterna sökte befrielse från det tyska oket. Samtidigt hotade framryckande bolsjeviker i öster.

Den tyska flottan var uttraderad, de svenska och sovjetiska flottorna var föråldrade och svaga och ingen av dem kunde hävda kontroll över Östersjön.

In i detta getingbo intervenerade britterna med en balanserad och stark Baltic Fleet för att stabilisera situationen och trycka tillbaka bolsjevikiska- och tyska stridskrafter från Baltikum genom att bland annat hota Petrograd (St Petersburg) och understödja baltiska frihetsrörelser. Kronstadt attackerades av britterna i en kombinerad operation av sjö- och flygstridskrafter – den första i krigshistorien.

- § 5 Följde en lång och entusiastisk diskussion och frågestund.
- § 6 Överlämnade ordföranden invalsdiplom varefter KL Lambert skrev in sig i KÖMS liggare.
- § 7 Förklarades det extra sammanträdet för avslutat.

Vid protokollet



Anders Johnson
Akademiens sekreterare