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“The common people, serving in the fleet, won the victory at Salamis, gave Athens power at sea, and this gave her an empire, and so they preserved the democracy.”

-- Aristotle, *Politics*

TRIREME IN NEW YORK CITY

Plans are being made to bring the Hellenic Navy vessel *Olympias* for its first voyage in the U.S. Scheduled for late spring through early summer of 2012, *Olympias*' visit will coincide with the Independence Day celebration and possible "Op Sail" event in New York Harbor. A world-class exhibition on Athenian maritime history is one of many exciting activities being organized to promote the ship's historic visit and enhance public awareness of the significance of triremes in the development of democratic ideals.



TRIREME OLYMPIAS:

The *Olympias* is a full-scale, working replica of the legendary 170-oared Athenian trireme of the 5th century B.C. The "Intrepid" of its day, the trireme was crucial to Athenian victory in the epic battle of Salamis, laying the foundation for democracy and western civilization. In the late 1980s, a group of British scholars, naval architects and the Greek government joined forces to construct *Olympias* -- bringing ancient history to life.

Olympias has left Greece only once, when it visited London in 1993, to help commemorate the 2,500th anniversary of democracy. The ship carried the Olympic flame prior to the 2004 Athens Summer Games.



Olympias, "The Enduring Spirit of Liberty" is the fastest human-powered ship on the planet.



Olympias during 1990's sea-trials in Greece



International crew, including many Americans, participating in 1990 sea-trials (Left)
View of interior (Right)

HIGHLIGHTS OF OLYMPIAS NEW YORK VISIT:

- *Olympias* will be transported from Athens, Greece to arrive in New York City in March of 2012. The ship will be docked in public view so visitors can see the ship repaired to full sea-worthy condition.
- The Seaport Museum New York is interested in hosting *Olympias* and a related exhibit on Athenian maritime history.
- Alan Shapiro, W.H. Vickers Professor of Archaeology, Johns Hopkins University and Ford Weiskittel of Trireme Trust USA, will curate the exhibit, featuring artifacts and items on loan from the Greek government.
- NYU will host an academic conference on the historical role of the triremes.
- A crew of oarsmen and women will be trained and a series of sea-trials held to test the ship's capabilities.
- *Olympias* will be rowed around the Statue of Liberty to highlight the connection between triremes and our American ideals of freedom and democracy.

TRIREME IN NEW YORK CITY, INC

- A 501(c)(3) charitable organization is working to bring *Olympias* to the City and appropriately showcase its historic visit.
- Board includes members of the Greek American community, maritime industry and other interested citizens.
- About \$500,000 in monetary and in-kind contributions has been raised toward the project budget of about \$2 million, which will support ship repair, creation of 170 improved oars, accommodations for oarsmen/women, tourism marketing, insurance, museum exhibit, academic conference and other necessary items.