

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**South Street Seaport Museum
announces
Peking's Departure on
the morning of September 6, 2016**

South Street Seaport Museum announces that the 1911 four-masted barque *Peking* will depart from the Street of Ships at the South Street Seaport for the first leg of its journey toward its new home at the Stiftung Hamburg Maritim, the maritime museum of Hamburg, Germany. *Peking* will officially close to the public on August 28, 2016 at the South Street Seaport Museum (last tour 4:15pm), and will leave on September 6, 2016 at approximately 8am (pending weather conditions) for Caddell Drydock in Staten Island. There she will spend some months in preparation for the dockship journey to Europe in the spring of 2017.

Say farewell to *Peking* by joining the **Seaport Museum** for its **Free Fridays** program on August 26, 2016 from 3pm-7pm. Each Free Friday is centered around a different theme and continues through October, 2016; the theme for the August program is "*Peking*" in honor of the famed tall ship currently berthed at Pier 16. This Free Friday kicks off the final weekend of public access to *Peking* as we prepare for her departure. Special programming includes participatory sail-raising aboard the ship, printing demonstrations at Bowne Printers with free *Peking* themed take-aways, and a screening of *Around Cape Horn* at Bowne Printers, with thanks to Mystic Seaport Museum. Admission to the screening is FREE, but reservations are required at <https://southstreetseaportmuseum.org/free-fridays/>. The Free Fridays program is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the Office of New York Assembly Member Alice Cancel.

Built in Hamburg, Germany in 1911, *Peking* is one of the famous "Flying P Liners" of F. Laeisz Lines. Employed in the nitrate trade, *Peking* made voyages from Europe to the west coast of South America with general cargo and returned filled with guano for use in the making of fertilizer and explosives. *Peking* was made famous by the Irving Johnson film *Around Cape Horn*, which documented her 1929 passage around the southern tip of South America in hurricane conditions. *Peking* first arrived in New York in 1974.

"The gift of Peking to Hamburg, where they've got 30 million euros to restore her, is good for our Museum; it will allow us to focus our growing resources on a leaner fleet, the centerpiece of which will be the mighty three-masted ship Wavertree, which will shortly return from a

massive restoration project. It's also good for Hamburg; they'll have a restored ship they can be proud of. She was built in Hamburg and sailed from there. She belongs on the Hamburg waterfront. And it's good for Peking; she'll have the resources and the attention she deserves" said **Captain Jonathan Boulware**, Executive Director of the South Street Seaport Museum.

South Street Seaport Museum is home to a fleet of 5 historic ships, including the lightship *Ambrose*, a "floating lighthouse" to guide ships safely from the Atlantic Ocean into the broad mouth of lower New York Bay; the 1885 ship *Wavertree*, one of the last large sailing ships built of wrought iron; the 1930 *W.O. Decker*, the last surviving New York-built steam tug; the 1893 *Lettie G. Howard*, the last of the Fredonia-model fishing schooners and a certificated Sailing School Vessel; and the 1885 schooner *Pioneer*, an authentic 19th century schooner, with public sails daily from May through October.

According to **Captain Jonathan Boulware**, "just as *Peking* is the right ship for Hamburg, *Wavertree* is the right ship for New York. She's the very type of ship that built our city. The story of the port of New York is replete with ships of the same type and size as *Wavertree*--humble, unassuming ships that for a century plied the world's oceans driving the trade, immigration, and cultural exchange that made New York the first modern world city."

ABOUT SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM

South Street Seaport Museum is a non-profit cultural institution located in the heart of the historic South Street Seaport district in New York City. Founded in 1967, the South Street Seaport Museum preserves and interprets the history of New York as a great port city. Designated by Congress as America's National Maritime Museum, the Museum houses galleries and performance spaces, working nineteenth century print shops, a maritime library, a maritime craft center, and a fleet of historic vessels that all work to tell the story of "Where New York Begins." <https://southstreetseaportmuseum.org>