

# **“Paper Shipwright” Scale Models**

## **By Rob Morgan**

The information that this company existed was sent to me by Ralph Weaver who edits ‘The Foreign Correspondent’ journal, dealing with land and naval warfare between 1815 and 1914, but only in Europe and European waters, sadly. Take a look at the site....

[www.papershipwright.co.uk](http://www.papershipwright.co.uk)

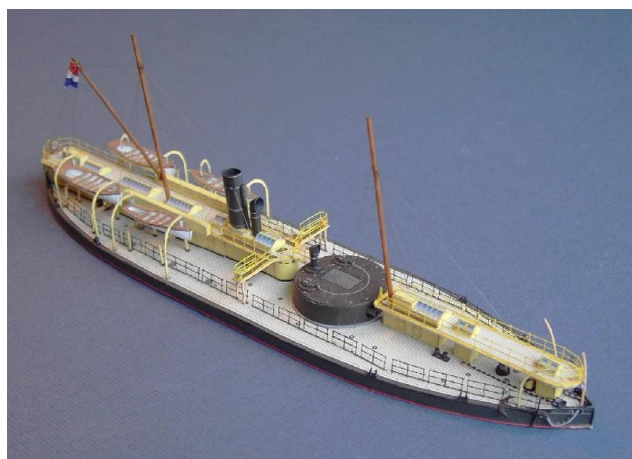
Run by David Hathaway, Paper Shipwright’s at 28, Hayster Drive, Cambridge, CB1 9PB. UK.

There’s a pair of German River Monitors, *SMS Rhein* and *SMS Mosel*, built after the Franco-Prussian War, and very intriguing little warships with a few remarkable features... they could be ‘sunk’ up to the superstructure to become river blockhouses for example. These could, if the information’s followed carefully, be modelled perhaps from a ‘Peter Pig’ 1/600<sup>th</sup> monitor or a Navwar 1/1200<sup>th</sup> type with little difficulty.

There are three of the small Swedish monitor types in the list, *Selve*, *Foelke* and *Fenris* as well as the bigger standard Ericsson type. The last of which I wrote about in the Naval Wargames Society’s Journal ‘Battlefleet’ a while ago, as a simple ‘Peter Pig’ conversion of the ‘USS Passaic’ type. At least one of the small Swedish ironclads was intended to fight stern first as a means to protect retreating warships in the Baltic archipelago systems.

**Figure 1 The Puigceda**

These are unusual models to find anywhere, and that’s more than true of the Spanish Monitor type ‘Puigceda’ c.1870 which it’s very difficult to find an illustration of anywhere! Then the Russian ‘Smersh’ another oddity, and the same goes for the Paper Shipwright Dutch Monitor ‘Tijger’ which if I recall had a ram bow, and Holland was the only country to place this feature on a Monitor- remarkably useful in narrow waterways. The ‘Melik’ the Egyptian Nile gunboat can I think be converted in many smaller scales without too much trouble, and the Danish ‘Pedar Skram’s’ available but at a cost in 1/1200<sup>th</sup>! So is the new model of HMVS Cerebrus, and ‘Huascar’ and the two RN Monitors, M15 and M33.



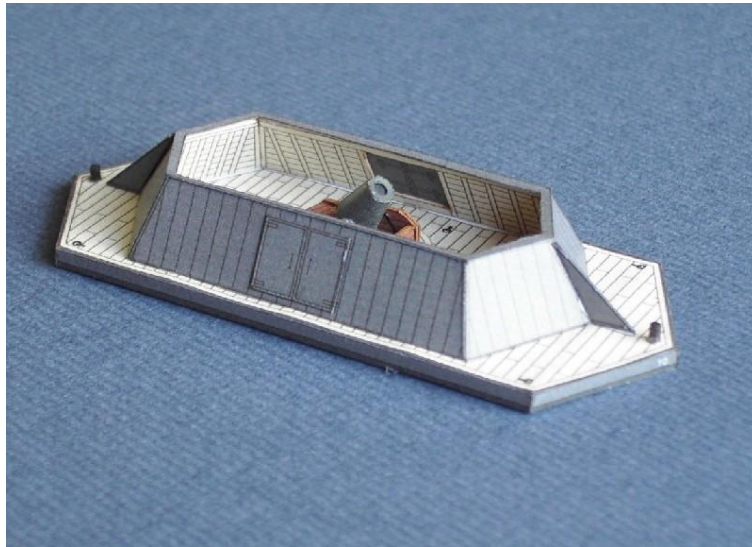
**Figure 2 The Tijger**

There are also three American Civil War models, the original *USS Monitor*, *CSS Virginia* and a mortar boat.

Several of these interesting models, and believe me the description, technical and historical information’s sound and worth reading too, are available as free downloads, which is the case with *SMS’s Rhein* and *Mosel*.

The company also incidentally manufactures a number of rather complex paper merchant vessels and two Martello Towers and some sea walls.

The paper modelling concept's live and well in Eastern Europe of course, many of my colleagues in Poland and Ukraine are addicted to it, and I believe it's 'big' in Germany as well. However it never really had much of a start here in Britain or in the USA I'm told.



**Figure 3 USA Mortar Barge, 1862**

I'm not actually interested in them as paper kits, they are far too specialised and oddly scaled as models and also too time consuming for me! Rather it's the fact that someone like David Hathaway has prepared accurate scale plans which could be used not in 1/250<sup>th</sup> or in 1/160<sup>th</sup> but transposed to a real wargames scale like 1/600<sup>th</sup> or 1/300<sup>th</sup> (personal preferences these for early ironclads) or 1/1200<sup>th</sup> even 1/2400<sup>th</sup> for the table-top.

That's either by scratch-building, and conversion, which is possibly worth considering, or by the efforts of a sculptor and manufacturer of naval models, and many do read this newsletter I know. The Rhine Monitor 'sunk' version's going to be easy to re-create in 1/300<sup>th</sup> and in many of the other wargames scales I think, but the others might need a little effort, and so I'll put some thought into it shortly.

What appeals to me most about David Hathaway's work is its sense of adventure, and his highly original thought process. Who anywhere makes a Rhine Monitor in metal... in a scale that you can see without a magnifying glass?

Take a Look!!!

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