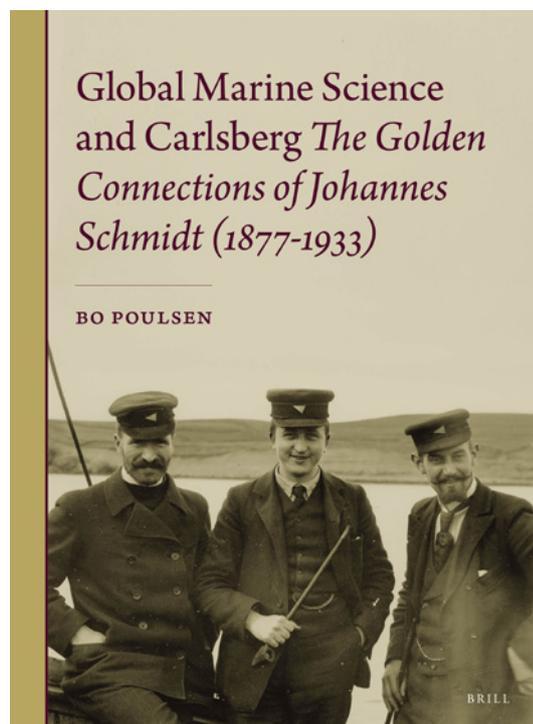


Global Marine Science and Carlsberg - *The Golden Connections of Johannes Schmidt (1877-1933)*

Bo Poulsen



- August 2016
- ISBN 978 90 04 31636 2
- Hardback (iv, 524 pp.)
- List price EUR 45.- / US\$ 54.-

By accident, the world-famous brewery Carlsberg became a central force in global marine science during the first three decades of the 20th century. Within a core group of scientists and managers, Johannes Schmidt (1877-1933) was the key figure combining the efforts of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Danish state and several private companies. Launching 26 oceangoing expeditions Schmidt made landmark discoveries such as the breeding ground for the Atlantic eel in the Sargasso Sea. The scientific frontier was pushed literally kilometres into the deep sea and across the World's oceans. While the formal North Atlantic Empire of the small state of Denmark was in decline, an informal empire of science was erected instead.

READERSHIP: Historians, marine scientists and everyone interested in the history of ocean exploration, exciting sea voyages, discovery of new species and the international politics and scholarly entanglements associated with such enterprises.

Bo Poulsen, Ph.D. (2006), University of Southern Denmark, is Associate Professor of Environmental History at Aalborg University. For his interdisciplinary work, such as the monograph *Dutch Herring* (Aksant, 2008), he has been awarded the *Danish Research Project of the Year Award* and the *Hoogendijk Prize*.

Reviews

This is the extraordinary story of Johannes Schmidt, an entrepreneurial and controversial giant of marine science in the first three decades of the 20th century and how he succeeded in cajoling support from Carlsberg, the giant of beer brewing and establishing Denmark as a prominent player in expeditionary science. The book is clearly written, handsomely illustrated, deeply researched and the story is thoughtfully and imaginatively contextualized.

- J.R. McNeill, Georgetown University

We are most fortunate that we finally have an extensive biography of this eclectic marine scientist, who perhaps does not have the recognition today that he deserves. Schmidt's role within ICES, in promoting and leading multi-national applied research on a wide range of fisheries issues, is captured in a new manner. The interactions of the strong personalities of the scientists from the diverse countries of Europe are teased out through in depth investigation of archival material that has not previously been accessed. We "toast" Bo Poulsen on his telling of this unique and fascinating story.

- Michael M. Sinclair, Bedford Institute of Oceanography



BRILL

Reviews

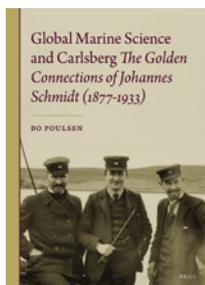
Good stories abound in the development of marine sciences, the story of Johannes Schmidt is no exception. With unparalleled entrepreneurial spirit, he carved the freedom for himself to develop ground-breaking science. Bo Poulsen has done justice to this multi-faceted personality by being equally knowledgeable on the issues of marine science and the historical, political and personal contexts in which it was developed. With lucid prose, he has created an interdisciplinary tale that equally brings to life Johannes Schmidt and the creatures he was so interested in.

- **Verena Winiwarter**, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria

Bo Poulsen tells a fascinating story of the surprising connections between the Danish scientist Johannes Schmidt, the famous Carlsberg brewery, and the pivotal role that marine science played in Denmark's pursuit of international geopolitical standing as its formal North Atlantic empire waned in the first decades of the 20th century. A national celebrity in his own time, Schmidt is remembered by scientists today for solving the mystery of the spawning ground for the European eel in the far-distant Sargasso Sea. The legacy of his relationship with the Carlsberg Foundation, one of the earliest private foundations to patronize science, has been complicated by conflicting assessments since the Second World War about why and whether a brewery should have funded marine science. Poulsen's research reveals why the Foundation, in conjunction with the Danish state government and private shipping and other companies, supported marine science in an era when international cooperation operated in tandem with the ability of important scientific discoveries to represent national achievement. Poulsen's work enriches our understanding of the history of marine science and how it operated geopolitically between the foundational voyage of HMS Challenger in the 19th century and the meteoric growth of oceanography set off by the Second World War.

- **Helen M. Rozwadowski**, Associate Professor of History and Maritime Studies, University of Connecticut Avery Point

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