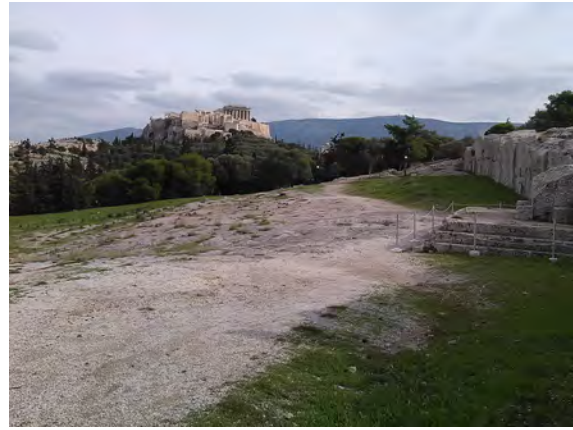


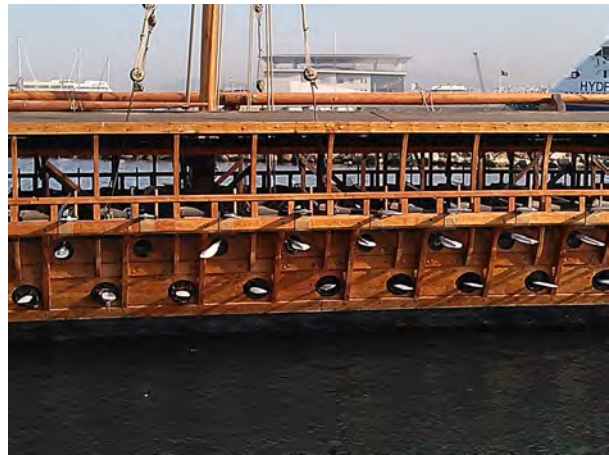
During a trip to Greece, Robert Colburn, IEEE History Center Research Coordinator took photos associated with the REACH Greek Trireme Inquiry Unit, including the “*Olympias*,” the world’s only working full-sized sea-going replica of an ancient Athenian trireme. The photos may be seen here along with captions and insight provided by Mr. Colburn.



*Olympias* showing her bow, with bronze ram and sides of the ship.



The Pnyx, where the Athenian Assembly (ekklesia) met, with the Acropolis in the background. The stone-cut rostrum in the foreground with the steps leading up to it, is where Themistocles, Pericles, and other Athenian statesmen stood to address the voters. the Athenian Assembly (



Stern and midships view of the reconstruction of the trireme *Olympias* in the water. When in port, or beached, the steering oars are retracted out of the water. stern and midships view of the r



Her twin steering oars made a trireme extremely maneuverable. Sea tests have shown that *Olympias* can turn 180 degrees in two and a half times her own length.H





Athena's "wooden walls": midships detail of *Olympias* showing her oars retracted and the mainmast footings.



Triremes' masts were unstepped (taken out of their sockets) during battle. Sometimes the masts, yards, sails, and rigging would even be left on shore during a battle to save weight. It is probable that the Greek ships did that at Salamis.



Stern detail showing the seat for the trierarch (captain) who sat directly behind the two kybernetoi (steersmen) who handled the steering oars.



Midships-to-bow view of *Olympias*. Faliron Bay, where *Olympias* is presently moored, is where the Persian fleet was stationed the night before the battle of Salamis. Imagine this photograph with not one, but more than 200, ships.





Long view from port stern. This shows how long and sleek triremes were. Because the sterns were round and the bows had rams, triremes could easily be pulled up on a beach stern first at night. In order to keep the wooden hulls from absorbing water (and thus becoming heavy), ancient Greek sailors hauled their warships out of the water as often as they could whenever they were not actually sailing.



Long view from stern showing *Olympias'* decks. While the rowers pulled the oars below decks, the ship's marines (made up of infantrymen and archers) defended the ship from on deck.