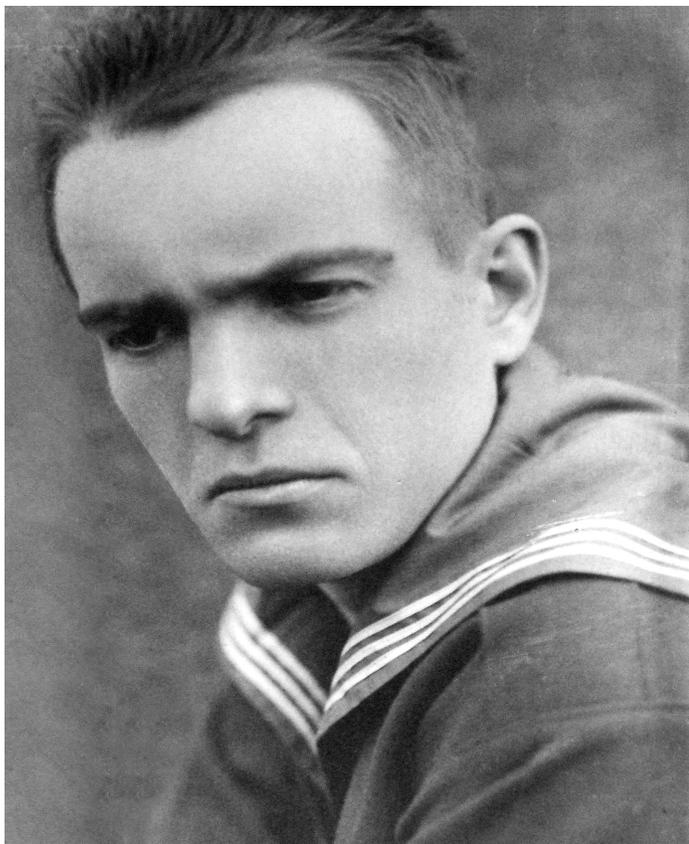


NEW IDEAS ABOUT THE FACTOR IN SHIPPING AND THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MARITIME VAPTZAROV PRIZE

*(On the occasion of the 105th anniversary of
Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov's birthday (7.12.1909 - 23.7.1942)
patron of the Naval Academy, Varna)*

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On the 7th of December, 2014, we will celebrate the 105th anniversary of the birth of the patron of Naval Academy, Varna, Bulgaria – the poet – Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov, who his classmates, teachers and commanders called The Seafarer and called themselves Vaptzarov's and have Vaptzarov's faith in their souls while sailing in World ocean.

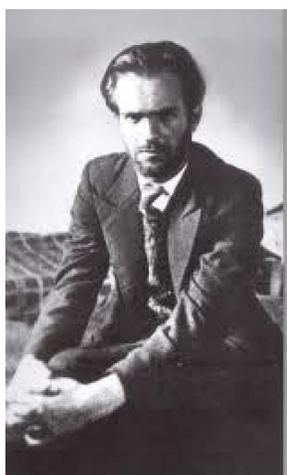
Every Bulgarian seafarer, graduate of Naval Academy “Nikola Vaptzarov” knows the emblematic Vaptzarov's poem „FAITH”:

For Life there is nothing
I would not dare.
I would fly
a prototype plane in the sky,

climb into a roaring
rocket, exploring
alone
in space
distant
planets.

Maybe you wish
you could erase
my faith
my faith
in happy days,
my faith
that tomorrow
life will be finer,
life will be wiser?

Pray, how will you smash it?
With bullets?
No! That is useless!
Stop! It's not worth it!
My faith has strong armour
in my sturdy breast
and bullets able to shatter
my faith
do not exist,
do not exist!



The Monograph Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov – The Seafarer written by professor

Iliya Peev was issued 5 years ago, ISBN: 9789544494506.



Also 5 years ago the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO) announced year 2009 as Year of Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov, the world-famous poet and winner of the International Peace Award in 1953.



Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov was born on the 7th of December, 1909 in the town of Bansko. He entered in 1926 the oldest technical school in Bulgaria – the Machine School for the Navy, established in 1881 – motivated by his love of the techincs and the sea, and complying with the will of his father, Yonko Vaptsarov. For 6 years – until 1932, Nikola Vaptsarov had been learning the theoretical

basis of the seamanship and had been mastering the ships machines and systems during the sea practice at naval and merchant ships.

Due to his natural poetical talent and his big love of the literature, inherited from his mother Elena Vaptsarova, Nikola Vaptsarov had quickly gained the love of his classmates, commanders and teachers, who had been supporting the development of his poetical gift.

Nikola Vaptsarov fall in love with the sea and the machines, and he dedicates to them his first literary works – poems, essays, travel notes and stories. During his education in Machine School for the Navy he wrote over 150 literary works, which assign him a place among the most famous marine authors in the world. As recognition of his talent as a marine poet, his classmates started affectionately calling him The Mariner, which shows the best his charming seaman's character and his gift of an eminent talented young person.

Nikola Vaptsarov's literary works are not only a zenith of the world poetry about the sea and the seaman's life. Nikola Vaptsarov brings something new in the world literature – he relates the human soul with the sea and the machines!

Nikola Vaptsarov as a person and a poet is remarkable for bravery and militant spirit, he struggles against the social injustice, and he fights with words and deed for the freedom of his country and his nation. Same as many Bulgarian and world poets and writers, fighters for freedom and independence, he is being sentenced from the authorities for his advanced ideas. He is being shot on the 23rd

of July, 1942 at the garrison military firing ground, Sofia.

Ten years later, Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov was given the highest national and international acknowledgment! In 1952 The World Peace Council awarded to him the top honours – The International Peace Prize, which was handed to his mother in 1953 on a ceremony of many thousands, participated by poets and writers from dozens of countries.

Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov's publications has being translated into over 64 languages in 92 countries and are being read all over the continents of the Earth.

Training ships, cargo vessels, schools, community centres and theatres are being named after Nikola Vaptsarov. Dozens of memorials are being erected in his honour and streets and squares are being named after his name.

In honour of the great poet Mariner Nikola Vaptsarov a peak in Antarctica is named after his name - [Vaptsarov Peak](#) (410m, coordinates 62°37'15"S, 59°54'25"W) - the peak is located in Tangra Mountains, eastern Livingston Island in South Shetland Islands [Decree of the President of Republic of Bulgaria No 243/6th of July, 2004, Official Gazette, issue 64/23rd of July, 2004].

Especially popular among the seamen are his works about the sea and the ships, about the seaman's life: the essay "The Sea", the essay "Memories about the mine-layers", impressions from the steamboat "Burgas" (Alexandria, on the open sea, Mitilin (Lesbos) – Safo island, Marmaris island, Black Sea), the travel notes "A key of Suez" and "For people too sensitive - no entrance", the poems

“Fisherman’s life”, “In the ship dormitory”, “Thirst”, “March of the 26th alumni of Machine School”, “Seamen” etc. We can estimate as a bright and exceptionally courageous literary work his speech, held on his graduation from Machine School in 1932.

The nautical technical education Nikola Vaptsarov had and his deep knowledge in literature make him an innovator in the world poetry; he succeeded to grasp the rhythm of the new days, of the machines, of the technical progress. Vaptsarov became a herald of new romantic – related with the achievements of the technics and the technologies.

The combination of indisputable poetic talent, deep literary knowledge and elite technical education obtained from the Machine School in the first half of the XXth century, which the world defined as a century of the scientific and technical progress and a century of the information society, are that **synergetic mix** which allowed Vaptsarov to realize the strength and the future of the machines, to spiritualize the machines and to relate the human spirit with the machine spirit, and from there to perceive the new stage in the development of the human society! This work of art and discovery of Nikola Vaptsarov is a new height in the world poetry and a new loop in the spiral of the knowledge!

With 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention a series of remarkable events happened in the water transport and the maritime education all over the world, which testify about the new way of thinking and **the new vision about the safety in shipping:**

First: In order to mark the historical role of the Manila Amendments to the STCW, The Secretary-General of International Maritime Organization (IMO) Mr. Koji Sekimizu announced 25th of June as an International day of the Seafarer. The main purpose of the celebration The International day of the Seafarer is to increase the prestige of the maritime profession and to give respect to the maritime labour. And there are grounds for that – over 90% of all freights are being shipped thanks to the mariners.

The Manila Amendments to the STCW in 2010 aim to improve the safety in shipping and to raise the role of the human factor.

To accomplish these strategic goals in shipping new ideas in training maritime crews are needed and some of them are being presented in this article.

Second: From 19th until the 21st of September, 2009 in Admiral Makarov State Maritime Academy, St. Petersburg was held The 10th jubilee assembly of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU).

The assembly sets noteworthy aims – to develop and maintain high standards in the maritime education, to provide the shipping industry with trained specialists on international level and to contribute to safety in shipping. During the assembly for the representatives of the maritime administrations and the shipping industry was held an International Forum – Round-table with topic: “The maritime personnel: quality, quantity and career development. Creating an united educational space for training seamen as an answer to the globalization processes of

the XXth century”.

The 10th jubilee assembly will contribute to the successful accomplishment of the **main International Association of Maritime Universities IAMU tasks:**

- Creating and maintaining high standards for the maritime education in the world;
- Solving problems from the cadets and students' practical training at the training, merchant and military ships;
- Providing the world shipping industry with trained specialists on international level;
- Contributing to safe shipping from ecological, technical and humanitarian point of view.

Third: In conformity with its main aims and priorities IMO developed new conception about the safety in shipping, based on new understanding of the safety at sea. This substantially new outlook has a number of aspects: political, geographical, geopolitical, scientific, technical and technological, social, psychological, values aspect, moral, spiritual, economical, personnel aspect, legal, etc.

The new conception about safety at sea is based on substantially new principles:

- Deep maritime knowledge;
- Good maritime practice;
- Maintaining the ship clean and in good working order;
- Accuracy and high professionalism;
- Good communication;
- Psycho-physical resistance and endurance of the crew.

The new conception in safety at sea was discussed in particular in year 2000 during the 3rd international seminar from the series of seminars with topic: “Sub-

standard shipping: problems and ways of solving them through cooperation”.

The basic idea of this conception lies in the understanding that all accidents ultimately could be overcome!

Overcoming the accidents through implementing knowledge of safety relates to awareness and knowledge of survival as well, i.e. carrying out actions about preservation the human life at sea and limiting the damages from the accidents, as well as managing the risk and crisis, which lies as a base for work without accidents.

The XII International Seminar, organized by the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping with topic: “Quality shipping: XXI century standards. Safety and Marine Environment Protection - Prospects We Face”, which took place in St. Petersburg on 21st – 22nd of October 2009 was dedicated to fulfillment of these aims.

Fourth: On the 11th of March, 2009, The European Parliament adopted the “Erika III” package, aimed at regulating the navigation in European waters, consisted of 8 regulations and directives. They are engendered by the fact, that the international and national shipping experiences deficiency of trained maritime specialists, which is connected with the negative tendencies in the global and national economies.

The main strategic aim of the package is to improve safety of navigating in European waters and prevent disasters such as the Erika and Prestige shipwrecks. Adopting this package is huge victory of The European Parliament and for the world shipping.

These three remarkable events were fore-

gone by adopting two fundamental documents by The European Union about increasing the role of maritime safety:

- On the 10th of October, 2007 The European Commission adopted **The Blue Book** - a document presenting An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union and accompanied by a detailed Action Plan. On the 14th of December, 2007 The European Union approved The Integrated Maritime Policy and The Action Plan;

- On the 7th of June, 2006, The Commission of the European Communities adopted **The Green Paper** "Towards the future Maritime Policy for the Union: The European vision for the oceans and seas".

The aim of these strategic documents is:

- Increasing the competitive power of the maritime industry;
- Remaining at the top of the knowledge, science and technology;
- Developing the European maritime abilities and broaden the full maritime employment;
- Increasing the role of the human factor in the shipping.

The listed remarkable events and the new challenges in the shipping are focusing at the end at the **human factor in the seafaring**.

XXI century requires new vision about training maritime management personnel with higher education. Besides the traditional leaning on mind, consciousness, discipline, responsibility and intelligence of the maritime specialists, the attention is also drawn towards developing a new set of personal values, new spirituality, high emotional intelligence, social com-

petency and management knowledge of the maritime personnel.

A positive role about solving this challenging task for the maritime education of the XXI century, besides the science, will play the literature, the poetry, the music and the art.

The poetry of the marine poet Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov will contribute to developing new spirituality and new professional knowledge of the seamen from all the countries.

Nikola Vaptsarov related the sea and the machines with the human soul in an artistic way and gave the machines **spiritual essence**. This is particularly important to lay the stress on, because for ages and ages the scientific, technical and artistic intellectuals had been considering the problem "Human-Machine" too narrow-minded, without seeing it as a **social problem**, as a relationship between **Human and Human, as a Spiritual problem!**

The Sea requires spiritual powers! Developing new knowledge in safety is possible only if developing new set of personal values in the seamen and the ship crews!

The complex world of the seamen, pilots and cosmonauts persistently requires involving not only the engineers, constructors, designers, technologists, doctors and psychologists, but the writers, poets, play-writers, painters, artists, and composers as well.

The massive scientific, technological and psychological intensity, accumulated in XX century, gave new stimulus in the human civilisation development at the beginning of the XXI century, which start-

ed with elaborating new, more complex moral and psychological problems for the seamen, pilots and cosmonauts.

In the first decade of XXI century the science reached the psychological bases of the spirituality and the knowledge in safety of the Flying Man (Home Volans), the Cosmic Man (Homo cosmicus, Homo Cosmodromo), the Man sea-farer (Seaman), the Man amphibian (Homo aquaticus), the Man under-water – aquanaut (Merman).

Nikola Vaptsarov is among the first poets in the world, who glorified and spiritualised the machines. With his literary work in the first half of XX century he connected spiritually the humans, the sea and the machines, he gave the machine – Soul. Thus Vaptsarov using artistic methods got more than a half century ahead of that, which the modern explorers of the XXI century developed using scientific methods – The theory of the spirituality of the professionals with dangerous professions (pilots, seamen, cosmonauts) and revealed the nature of the Soul of the pilot, seaman and the cosmonaut, discovered the substance of the emotional

and spiritual intelligence.

This is a unique contribution of Nikola Vaptsarov to the world literature, which ought to be fully evaluated, popularized and implemented in the educative activities in the maritime universities!



Considering all these circumstances, remarkable events, motives and arguments, it is expedient The International Maritime Organization of the United Nations Organization **to establish** an annual individual and team **Vaptsarov Maritime Prize**, which to be granted to lecturers from the maritime universities about great success in training the maritime commanders with higher edu-



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cation – the world leaders of the seas and oceans in XXI century!

The Vaptsarov Maritime Prize to consist of diploma, medal (pendant, statue) and financial premium.

While evaluating the work of the nominated candidates from the maritime universities, to lay stress on their contribution to forming the spirituality and developing the personal values of the maritime specialists and their spiritual relation with the sea and the machines!

The status of **the Vaptsarov Maritime Prize**, the regulation about bestowing the prize, choosing members for the jury, the amount of the financial premium to be specified additionally.

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