



Model of the *Sultanah*

Treasures from the National Museum: Voyage of the *Sultanah* to New York

This month, the National Museum's Director-General, Jamal al-Moosawi, as well as the Museum's Head of Curatorial Unit, Moza al-Wardi, tell us about the Omani ship *Sultanah*, which in the mid-1800s sailed on diplomatic missions to both New York and London. (With photography by Saleh al-Ruzaqi/The National Museum).

The *Sultanah* is perhaps Oman's most famous ship. Built in Mumbai in 1248 – 49 AH/1833 CE, she was a swift, three-masted naval corvette best known for her diplomatic missions. In 1255 – 56 AH/1840 CE, Sultan Sayyid Said bin Sultan al-Busaidi dispatched the *Sultanah* from Zanzibar to New York with his diplomatic envoy Ahmad bin an-Nu'man al-Ka'bi and a cargo of precious goods, including gifts for US President Martin Van Buren. The perilous journey took 87 days, and the *Sultanah*'s arrival in New York Harbor was met with unprecedented interest and enthusiasm. Two years later, the *Sultanah* made another important diplomatic voyage, this time to London, carrying Oman ambassador Sheikh Ali bin Nassir with state gifts for Queen Victoria.



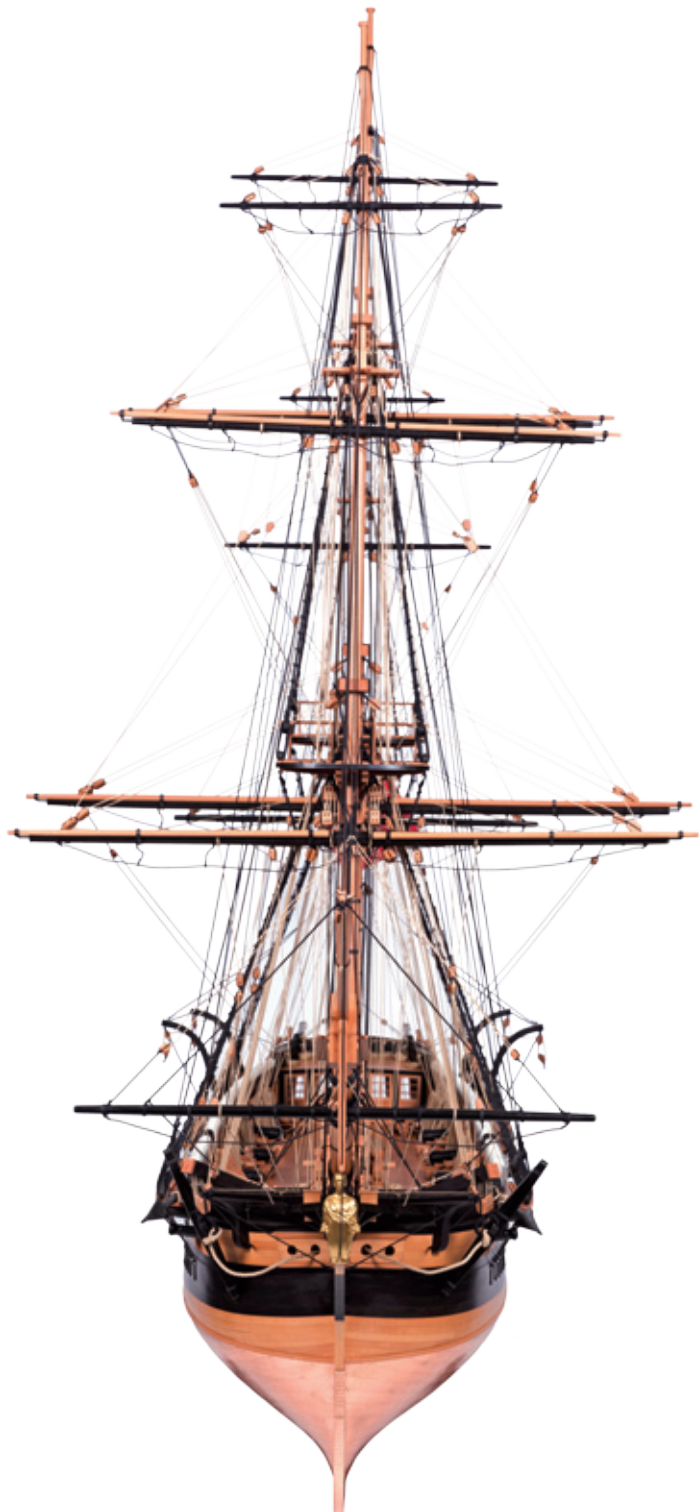
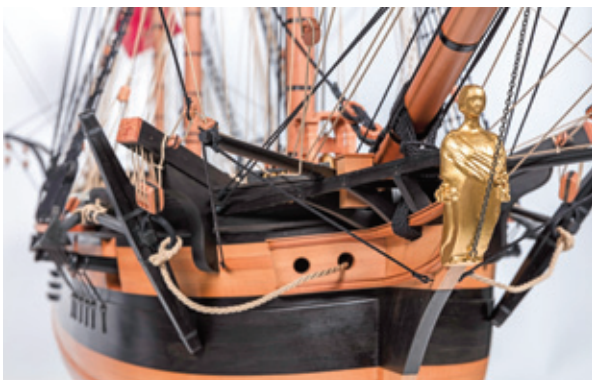
Model of the *Sultanah*

Origin: Made by Carlos Montalvão

Length: 1.51 metres (scale 1:24)

Materials: Wood, linen, canvas, bronze and copper

Date: 1438 AH/2017 CE



The National Museum is open daily from 10:00am – 5:00pm (except on Fridays 2:00pm – 6:00pm). The ticket desk closes half an hour before the Museum's closing times.

The National Museum: Visitor Information

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