

“Ocean Joss”

Ships in Focus

By Geoff Walker

“Bleichen”

A handsome little German ship of the late 1950s the **“MV Bleichen”**. This neat ship was built at the Nobiskrug Shipyard in Rendsburg for the Hamburg shipping company H. M. Gehrckens (HMG) and entered into service under the name of **“Bleichen”** on 28 August 1958. She was an advanced design for a short sea trader in her day. She had been built to primarily service the Baltic Trade, carrying bales of Paper Pulp from Finland to Germany. She was equipped with a Klockner-Humboldt- Deutz Diesel Engine of 1800 BHP, which gave her a service speed of 12 knots.



(Jens Schmit)

The fully restored Museum Ship **“MV Bleichen”** underway in the Elbe River

According to reports she carried a total crew of 24, which was a large number for a ship of her size. Perhaps it was something to do with the trade in which she was engaged. She was sold by H.M.G. in 1970 and renamed **“Canale Grande”**, then resold in 1979 to become the **“Arcipel”**, spending time under the Turkish flag. and then in 1994 being aptly renamed **“Old Lady”** before being acquired by the Hamburg Harbor Trust and being restored to her former glory and reregistered **“Bleichen”** as a museum ship at the Port of Hamburg. She now proudly conducts river cruises from Hamburg.

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