

## **CLIWOC: A database for the world's oceans 1750-1850**

R. García-Herrera<sup>1</sup>, D. Wheeler<sup>2</sup>, G. Konnen, M.R. Prieto<sup>3</sup> and P. Jones<sup>4</sup>  
on behalf of the CLIWOC team

<sup>1</sup> Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain

<sup>2</sup> University of Sunderland, Sunderland, UK

<sup>3</sup> Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI)

<sup>4</sup> University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

E-mail: rgarcia@6000aire.fis.ucm.es, rgarciah@fis.ucm.es

From the earliest days mariners have kept logbook accounts of their voyages. By 1750 the keeping of logbooks was almost universal amongst the officers of European ships. Although not prepared with this purpose, the logbooks and the observations that they contain are today of great scientific value. The UK, France, Spain and the Netherlands all possess notable collections of ships' logs, which in the pre-1850 period comprise the bulk of the observations available over the world oceans.

CLIWOC is a project funded by the European Union with partners from Spain, the UK, the Netherlands and Argentina. Its principal objective is to produce a database of daily oceanic weather observations between 1750 and 1850. It will be completed by December 2003 (estimated 300,000 observations). At that time, the CLIWOC database will be ready for integration with the I-COADS global database of meteorological observations, mainly 1800-present. The CLIWOC database utilises daily observations from logbooks that represent all the major oceanic areas. Data will include the most frequently recorded elements of wind strength and direction, plus weather observations and a meta-database that will also allow enquirers to consult the original sources.