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Title

Lifeboat Pulpit : Missions to Seamen pulpit in the shape of a ship's prow

Date

c 1928

Primary Maker

Missions to Seamen

Medium

Wood

Dimensions

Overall: 1780 × 1240 × 1350 mm, 70 kg

Name

Pulpit

History

The Mission to Seamen began in 1855 after Rev Dr John Ashley led the way by offering support and spiritual care

to mariners in Bristol, England. The Anglican Church took up his work throughout the world by establishing Missions to Seamen in ports across the globe, numbering today around 200. Their role was to support mariners spiritually and grew to offer recreation facilities and practical support such as accommodation, legal advice, and transport and communication facilities. The Mission to Seafarers Victoria has a pulpit representing the stern of a ship in their Mariner Chapel in Melbourne. This pulpit was constructed in 1909. It is unclear if the two pulpits were built in conjunction or in response, but the symmetry of the two is undoubtedly significant.