

Kåre Lauring: Georg Ludvig Thomsen - fyrskibsstyrmand og kunstmaler

I sommeren 2004 fik Handels- og Søfartsmuseet tilbudt en lille samling miniatureskildrier bestående af tegninger, akvareller og malerier udført af afdøde fyrskibsstyrmand Georg Ludvig Thomsen. I alt kender vi 91 små skildrier lavet af Ludvig Thomsen; alle holdt i nogenlunde samme størrelse som postkort, og det var 11 af disse skildrier, der af Thomsens familie bosat i USA nu blev skænket til museet.

I forbindelse med gaven kunne det jo være spændende at finde ud af lidt mere om Ludvig Thomsen, og skønt der ikke var meget at finde, skal det dog præsenteres her sammen med en gengivelse af nogle af de små miniaturer.

Georg Ludvig Thomsen, blev født i København den 11. november 1842. Som 15-årig finder vi ham i orlogsflåden på togt i Østersøen med korvetten VALKYRIEN, og på dette togt udførte han en række landtoninger, der er de ældste billeder, vi har fra ham.

Året efter var han igen på togt med VALKYRIEN, denne gang til Plymouth, hvor han lavede en tuschtegning af befæstningsværkerne. Senere samme år var han også på togt denne gang til Vestindien med briggen ØRNEN, hvorfra han også laver nogle landtoninger.

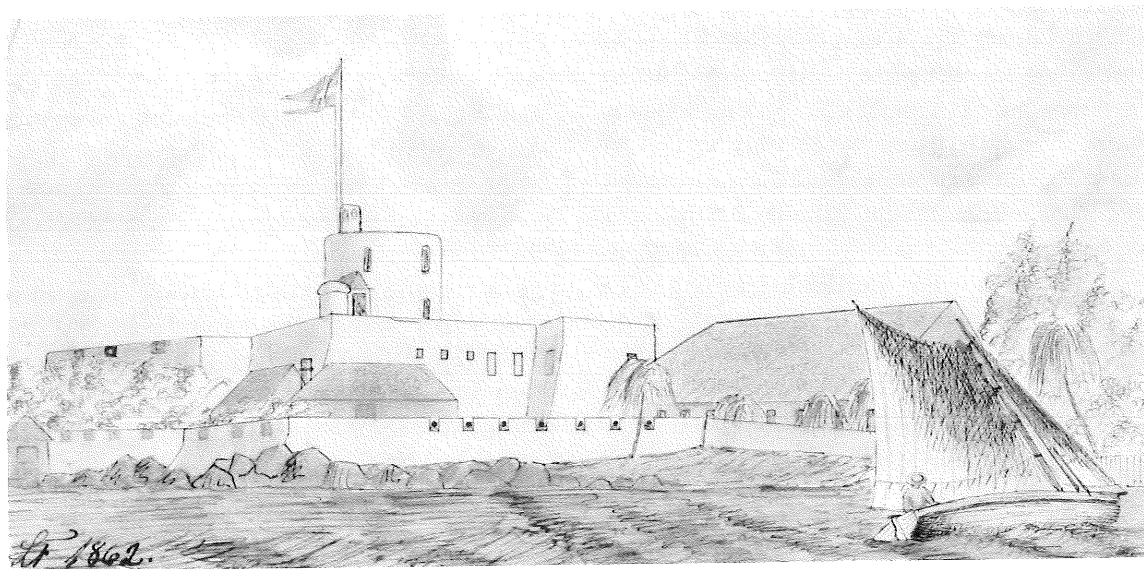
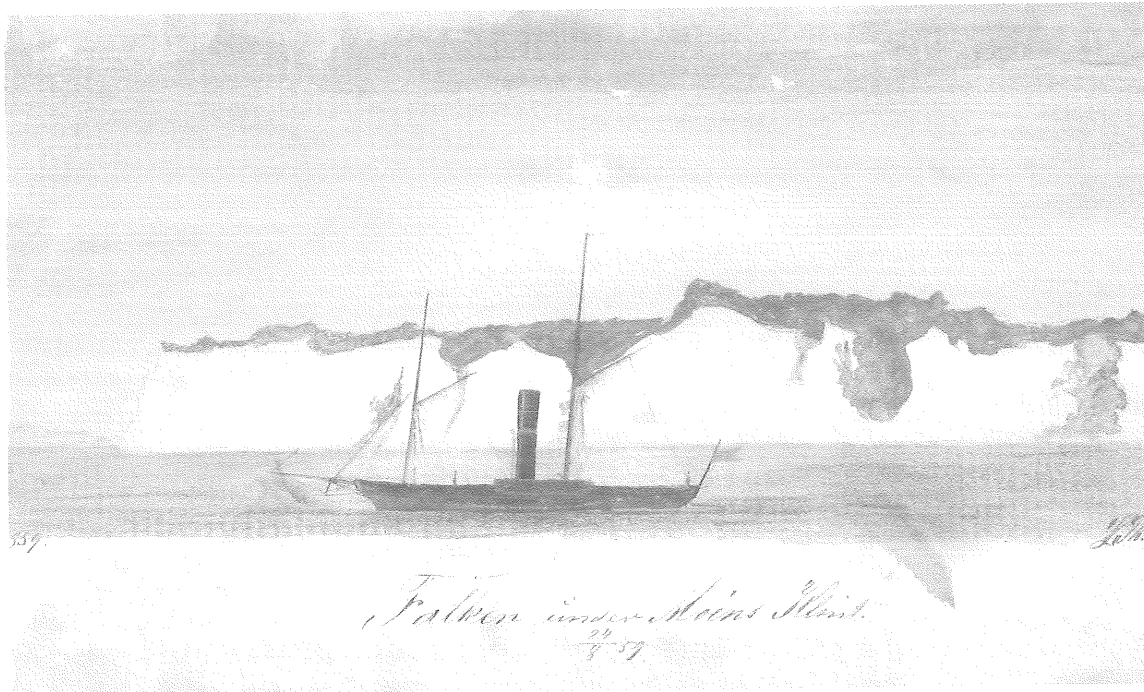
I 1859 rejste han rundt i Danmark, hvor han malede forskellige motiver som Gåse-

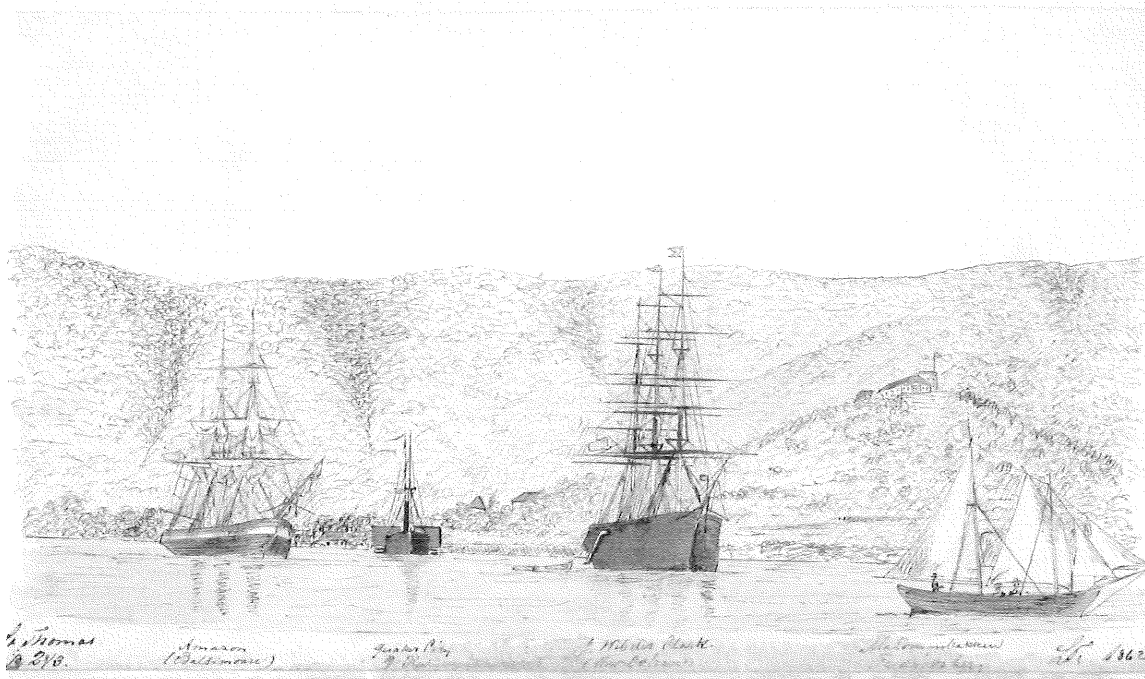
tårnet, Brejninge Kirke, Gråsten Slot samt nogle motiver fra Flensborg. I denne periode begyndte han også at male, hvad vi vil kalde marinebilleder, med hav og ukendte skibe i søen. I årene efter er han igen på togt til Vestindien, hvor han laver kysttoninger fra bl.a. St. Jan og St. Thomas.

Om hans krigstjeneste i 1864 ved vi kun, at han fra 3. august til 19. oktober 1864 gjorde tjeneste om bord i logiskibet. Fra 20. oktober til 26. november var han med linieskibet SKJOLD, derefter var han igen på logiskibet, indtil han blev hjemsendt den 3. december, og det var så den krig.

Efter krigen fortsatte han formentlig tjenesten i orlogsflåden, men vi ved det ikke med sikkerhed, men fra 1. april 1884 var han ansat i Fyr- og Vagervæsenet som fyrskibsstyrmand. Han var pensionsberettiget fra 1. april 1894, og han gjorde tjeneste som styrmand om bord i LAPPEGRUNDEN fyrskib.

Fra ca. 1887 begynder Ludvig Thomsen at male de skibe, der sejler forbi LAPPEGRUNDEN fyrskib, og dermed får vi gennem Ludvig Thomsens arbejder et kendskab til de skibe og skibstyper, der i årene omkring 1890 passerede Kronborg for nord- og sydgående. Det var nu ikke alle, der nøjedes med at passere, for vi får også at vide, at LAPPEGRUNDEN fyrskib i åre-





Havnen på St. Thomas 1862 med fire skibe. Fra venstre er det: AMAZON af Baltimore, QUAKER CITY og J. WEBSTER CLARK af New Orleans, medens den sidste er ukendt. Tusch på papir.

The harbour on St. Thomas in 1862 with four ships. From the left they are: the AMAZON of Baltimore, the QUAKER CITY and the J. WEBSTER CLARK of New Orleans, while the last one is unknown. Indian ink on paper. (DMM)

Foto side 50 øverst:
FALKEN under Møns Klint. Dateret 24. august 1859. Tusch og akvarel på papir.

*Photo page 50 top:
The FALKEN beneath Møns Klint. Dated 24th August 1859.
Indian ink and watercolour on paper. (DMM)*

Foto side 50 nederst:
Christiansfort på St. Thomas. Dateret 1862. Tusch på papir.

*Photo page 50 bottom:
Christiansfort on St. Thomas. Dated 1862.
Indian ink on paper. (DMM)*



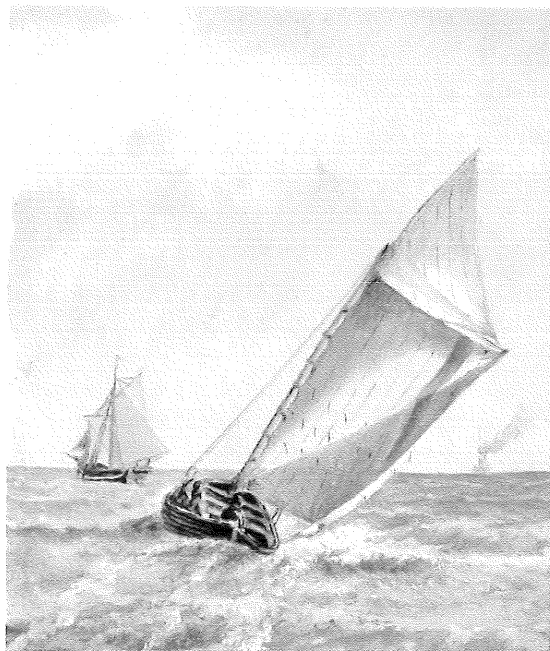
LAPPEGRUNDEN fyrskib med Kronborg til højre. Til venstre ses en damper for sydgående, til højre og for nordgående ses en damper og et sejlskib under bugsering. Dateret 1892.
Akvarel og tusch på pap.

*The lightship LAPPEGRUNDEN with Kronborg to the right. To the left is a steamer sailing south, to the right, sailing north is a steamer and a sailing ship being towed. Dated 1892.
Watercolour and Indian ink on cardboard. (DMM)*

ne 1892 til 1897 blev påsejlet 15 gange af passerende sejlskibe.

Det at befinde sig på et fyrskib var en udmærket placering for den, der ville være marinemaler. Det var der flere, der var klar

over, og blandt papirerne vedrørende LAPPEGRUNDEN fyrskib ligger da også to ansøgninger dateret 1885, fra marinema-
lerne Albert Kromann og Johan Jens Neumann, sidstnævnte kendt for flere søstyk-



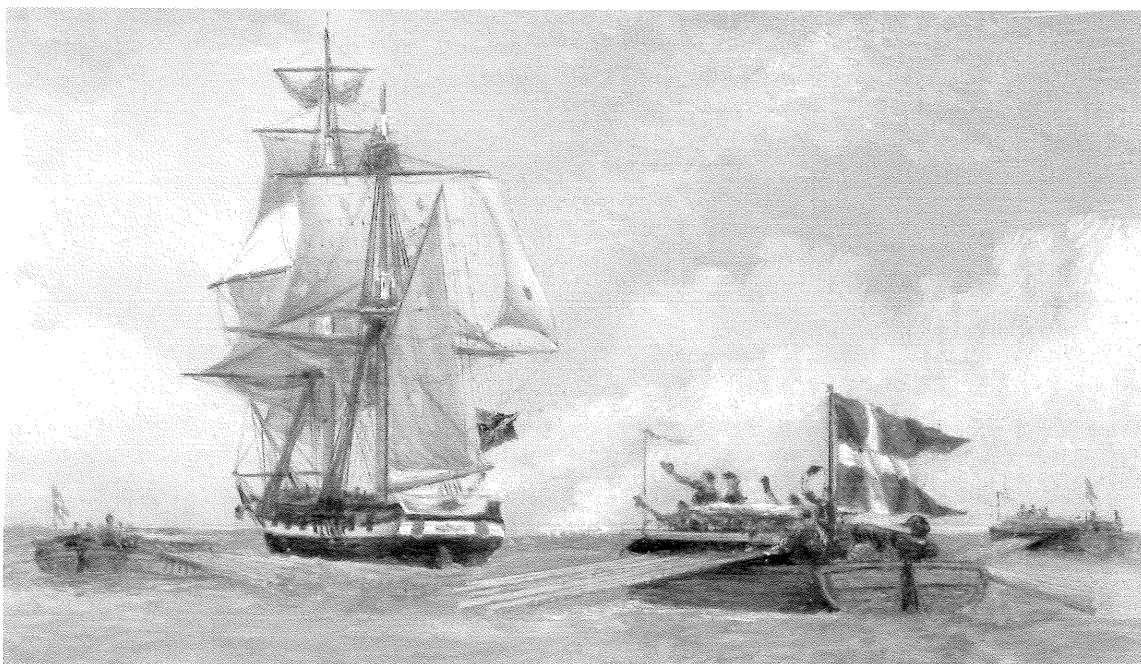
Lodsbåd med sprydsejl set fra agten. I baggrunden ses en dansk jagt med bredfok.
Olie på pap.

Pilot boat with spritsail seen from astern. In the background is a Danish sloop with a flying foresail.

Oil on cardboard. (DMM)

Engelsk brig stryger for tre danske kanonbåde.
Olie på pap.

English brig striking her colours for three Danish gunboats. Oil on cardboard. (DMM)





Tre lystbåde med gaffelsejl set fra bagbords side.
Dateret 1916.
Olie på pap.

*Three pleasure boats with gaff sails seen from the port
side. Dated 1916.
Oil on cardboard. (DMM)*

ker fra Sjællands nordkyst, om at få et 14-dages ophold om bord i fyrskibet for at gøre studier til marinemalerier.

Den 17. februar 1912 gik Ludvig Thomsen på pension. På det tidspunkt var han styrmand på DROGDEN fyrskib, hvortil han var blevet overført omkring 1905. Han gik på pension pga. alder, og hans årlige pension blev fastsat til 1.376 kr.

Grundet sin deltagelse i krigen 1864, blev

Georg Ludvig Thomsen fra februar 1914 tildelt en årlig hædersgave på 100 kr., og i 1924 blev han sammen med en række andre veteraner udnævnt til Dannebrogsmænd, men han har aldrig indsendt en levnedsskildring til Ordenskapitlet. Hvornår han døde vides ikke. Hans sidste billede er dateret julen 1923, og i 1925 bliver hans årlige hædersgave forhøjet til 108 kr.

Kåre Lauring: Georg Ludvig Thomsen – First Mate on a Lightship and a Painter

In the summer of 2004 the Danish Maritime Museum was offered a small collection of miniature pictures consisting of drawings, watercolours, and paintings made by the late Mr. Georg Ludvig Thomsen, who used to be the first mate on a lightship. Altogether we know of 91 small pictures made by Mr. Ludvig Thomsen, all kept approximately in postcard size, and it is 11 of these pictures that have been donated to the DMM by Mr. Thomsen's family now resident in the USA.

Georg Ludvig Thomsen was born in Copenhagen on November 11th 1842. At the age of 15 we find him in the Navy on a voyage to the Baltic with the corvette VALKYRIEN, and on this voyage he painted a number of views that are the oldest pictures of his we have.

A year later he was on a voyage with the VALKYRIEN again, this time to Plymouth, where he drew an Indian ink drawing of the fortifications. Later the same year he was on a voyage to the West Indies with the brig ØRNEN on which occasion he also made some views.

In 1859 he travelled round in Denmark where he painted various subjects such as Gåsetårnet, Brejninge Church, Gråsten Castle as well as some motifs from Flensborg. In this period he began to paint what we would call maritime pictures of the sea and unknown ships at sea. In the following years he was again on a voyage to the West Indies, where he made views of the shore from St. Jan and St. Thomas among other places.

Regarding his war service in 1864 we only know that he served aboard a receiving-ship from August 3rd to October 19th 1864. From October 20th to November 26th he was with the ship of the line called SKJOLD, and after that he was on a receiving-ship again until he was demobilised on December 3rd, and that was it.

After the war he presumably continued serving in the navy, but we do not know that for certain.

In any case from April 1st 1884 he was employed in the Lights and Buoys Service as first mate on a lightship. From April 1st 1894 he was entitled to a pension, and he served as first mate on the lightship LAPPEGRUNDEN.

From about 1887 Ludvig Thomsen began painting the ships that sailed past the lightship LAPPEGRUNDEN, and thus his works have given us a knowledge of the ships and ship types that passed Kronborg around 1890 both northbound and southbound. It was by no means all ships that made do with sailing past, because we are also told that in the period 1892 to 1897 15 sailing ships collided with the LAPPEGRUNDEN lightship while sailing past.

Being aboard a lightship was an excellent position for a person who wanted to be a marine painter. Other people were also aware of this, and among the papers concerning the LAPPEGRUNDEN lightship there are also two applications dated 1885 from the marine painters Albert Kromann and Johan Jens Neumann, asking for a 14-day stay on board the lightship in order to do studies for marine paintings. Johan Jens Neumann was well known for his seascapes from the north coast of Zealand.

On Februar 17th 1912 Ludvig Thomsen retired. At that time he was first mate aboard the lightship DROGDEN, to which he had been transferred around 1905. He retired because of age, and he was awarded an annual pension of 1,376 D. kr.

Because of his participation in the war of 1864 Georg Ludvig Thomsen was awarded an annual testimonial of 100 D.kr., and in 1924, together with a number of other veterans, he was decorated with the Silver Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog, although he has never sent in a curriculum vitae to the Chapter of the Order. We do not know when he died. His last picture is dated Christmas 1923, and in 1925 his annual testimonial was raised to 108 D.kr.

