

Travels and adventures

JACEK PALKEWICH: I LIKE BILLOWING SAILS



Despite the risk, the sea has always charmed me. Most of all I was drawn to sailing vessels. There is only one word conveying the idea of crossing the ocean on board a sailer. This word is struggle.

I sailed aboard vessels with square-shaped sails. Young members of their crews are taught discipline and collective work and their characters are shaped for the rest of their life. What is the magic force making them different from others? To understand this, you must see a vessel flying across the waves, hear the flapping of the sails in the gusts of wind, step onto the wooden deck which the sailors

scrub with swabs. Deep in one's heart one must cherish some things from childhood so that despite the rolling of the seas, to be able to admire, the leaping dolphins or the foaming sea waves, a misty dawn or romantic sunset. Then the bloody blisters on your palms, the ache in the back or eyes, bloodshot from the salt spray will not matter. Then when stepping down onto terra firma in an immaculately clean uniform, you will experience a genuine feeling of pride, immediately forgetting all the hardships of this life. Only victory will remain in your memory, victory over the sea elements and your own weakness.



