

KERBAU



DATE BUILT. 1898	BUILDER. THOMAS BANTOCK
TYPE BCN JOEY BOAT	LENGTH 40FT

FREIGHT CARRYING IN AND AROUND BIRMINGHAM WAS A VERY DIFFERENT AFFAIR TO MOST OF THE REST OF THE SYSTEM, WITH THE COALFIELDS AND INDUSTRY IN A LOCALISED AREA MANY GOODS WERE TRANSPORTED BY A TUG PULLING A TRAIN OF BOATS KNOWN AS JOEYS OR DAY BOATS, SO CALLED BECAUSE THEY WERE ONLY USED IN DAYTIME AND NO FAMILY LIVED ABOARD.

MADE IN THEIR HUNDREDS, THE TECHNIQUES USED FOR BUILDING THESE BOATS WERE MORE CRUDE THAN LONG DISTANCE FAMILY BOATS BUT SOME BUILDERS, LIKE THOMAS BANTOCK, STILL MANAGED TO KEEP A FINESSE TO THEIR HULLS AND THEY ARE QUIRE DISTINCTIVE. OFTEN DATING FROM THE MID 1800'S THESE HULLS SURVIVED WELL DESPITE THEIR ROUGH TREATMENT AND OFTEN CARRY NUMEROUS PATCHES AND REPAIRS.

WHEN PLEASURE BOATING STARTED TO TAKE OFF IN THE 1960'S MANY DAY BOATS WERE CUT DOWN TO MAKE SMALLER CRUISERS. KERBAU IS QUITE A RARE EXAMPLE, SHORTENED IN THE 1950'S BY THE HARRIS BROTHERS OF NETHERTON WHO FAMOUSLY REFUSED TO WELD THEIR BOATS, RELYING INSTEAD ON THE TRADITIONAL METHOD OF HOT RIVETTING, ITS CONVERSION TO A PLEASURE BOAT IS NOW HISTORIC IN ITS OWN RIGHT.