

# Press Release



01/2023

## **A window into the history of marine research expeditions**

**Original photographs of the German Atlantic Expedition with research vessel METEOR I donated by GEOMAR made accessible by the German Maritime Museum**

**05.01.2023/Bremerhaven/Kiel.** Almost 100 years after the German Atlantic Expedition with research vessel METEOR I, the German Maritime Museum receives original photographs of the voyage as a donation from GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. The negatives, which are available on glass plates and photographic film, are now being digitised and presented as part of the museum's permanent exhibition. They provide direct insights into the history of research shipping.

*Joint press release of the German Maritime Museum (DSM) / Leibniz Institute of Maritime History and GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel*

Twelve ordinary-looking wooden boxes have recently been placed in the study area of the research depot at the German Maritime Museum (DSM), Leibniz Institute for Maritime History. They hold a small sensation: original photographs of the German Atlantic Expedition with research vessel METEOR I that took place between 1925 and 1927. They have now come to Bremerhaven as a donation from GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel.

DSM curator Dr. Ulrike Heine puts on gloves, opens one of the wooden boxes and takes out a thin paper envelope. Carefully, she pulls out a glass plate and holds it up against the light. In the slightly blurred miniature scene, men can be seen obviously in heavy seas with measuring instruments on board METEOR I. The research vessel METEOR was underway from 1925 to 1927 for one of the most important expeditions of the 20th century: the German Atlantic Expedition, Dr. Heine knows. During the 777 days of travel, the scientific crew crossed the South Atlantic 14 times, conducted 67,000 echo soundings and more than 1000 balloon and kite launches. The first depth

Republic, says historian and director of the German Maritime Museum, Professor Dr. Ruth Schilling.