

Eileen Ramsay Photo Archive saved for the Nation



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Relaunch at the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show - Alexander Palace, London

The work of Eileen Ramsay, the Queen of yachting photography from the early 1950s to 1970s, has been saved for posterity. The sailing archive, which records the explosion in dinghy and small boat sailing in Britain after the War years, also includes iconic pictures of offshore racing in the Solent, and historic pictures of sailing pioneers from the first Observer single-handed transatlantic races (OSTAR) and the solo voyages of Francis Chichester, Alec Rose and Eric Tabarly. An exhibition of Eileen's pictures will be on display at the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show in the West Corridor at Alexander Palace, London on the 5th and 6th March.



The work of Eileen Ramsay, the Queen of yachting photography from the early 1950s to 1970s, has been saved for posterity © PPL

Olympic pictures

The famous archive includes long forgotten images of Olympic sailors [Keith Musto and Tony Morgan](#), Silver medalists at the 1964 Games in Tokyo, and [Rodney Pattison](#) and Ian MacDonald-Smith who won Gold for Britain in the same Flying Dutchman class at the Mexico Games in 1968. She also recorded the career of [Charles Currey](#), who won Silver at the Helsinki Games in 1952, and Robin Aisher, who represented Britain in the 5.5m keelboat class at the 1960 and '64 Games before finally winning Bronze at the Acapulco regatta in '68.

Other noted sailors to have fallen within Eileen Ramsay's focus have been [Stewart Morris](#), Gold Medal winner at the 1948 Games in Torquay, fellow International 14 champion and Olympic representative Bruce Banks, and Sir John Oakeley, the son of wrestling champion Sir Atholl Oakeley, who became one of Britain's most successful dinghy champions in the 60s and 70s, winning the Merlin Rocket crown three times in succession before going on to win the Flying Dutchman world championship.

Eileen, now aged 95, has kept her photo archive intact and called in PPL Photo Agency to digitise the pictures and manage the Library.

Barry Pickthall at PPL says: "It was very important to save Eileen Ramsay's archive. As well as photographing dinghies and yachts for more than 2 decades, she was a specialist portrait

photographer, and her early pictures of Francis Chichester, Eric Tabarly, Alec Rose and those OSTAR pioneers have great significance when recording Britain's sailing history."

PPL already holds the official archives of [Chichester](#), [Sir Robin Knox-Johnston](#) and [Sir Chay Blyth](#) in their specialist 'Pictures of Yesteryear' online archive at www.pplmedia.com

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