

THE HANSE KOGGE (COG)

was the seaworthy cargo ship of the Middle Ages.

This robust, wooden ship, initially with one main sail, transported large amounts of varied cargoes in a flourishing trade to and from England, connecting Northern 'European' countries and City States between 1200 and 1500 AD.

Hundreds of Cogs navigated the coasts of the North Sea and Baltic, especially those of the dominant Hanseatic League. Although only 50 feet to 80 feet (17 to 25 metres) long, they carried between 60 to 80 tons of Wool, Furs, Animal Skins, Cloth, Wood, Metals, Wheat, Grains, Fish in brine barrels, Dried Fish, Wine, Wax, Amber, Oils, Salt, Tar, Glass, Bricks, even hunting falcons.

The Cog boosted England's Wool Export trade, increasing the wealth of Boston from 1200 to 1400. Boston was one of the wealthiest towns in England and in the top 5 English ports, second only to London between 1200 and 1348.



Imagine a fleet, a Hanse, of 12 to 18 Cogs, arriving from Hamburg, mooring in the Witham Haven with goods for famous Boston Fayre!

The Cogs took Henry Of Derby, later King Henry IV, and his army on his First Crusade to Northern Europe in 1390 leaving from Boston.