

Book reviews

Master's Orders and Pilot's Advice

(DVD/video)

David Patraiko, FNI

Three cheers for the British Columbia Coast Pilots. In an age when the general public knows little of marine matters and many of us spend more time sulking than being proactive, the BC pilots have created a DVD/video documenting the good work they do. This 53-minute presentation is a professional production complete with soundtrack and dramatic voice narration, with plenty of special effects and dramatic aerial shots in a quality that any top broadcaster would be pleased with. It is, in fact, being broadcasted via the BC 'Knowledge Network' via TV and the web.

Master's Orders and Pilot's Advice portrays in great detail and drama how the BC Coast Pilots navigate and manoeuvre some of the world's largest and most challenging vessels through difficult channels in often-heavy weather, protecting the environmentally sensitive and stunningly beautiful coastline. The scenery in this film is worth the cost alone, and the dramatic effect of the production and script tore me between wanting to run off and join the pilots, or to stay watching the film expecting John Wayne to pop up at any moment! Pure shameless self-promotion, but why not? The serious point of this film is to educate the general public and politicians as to the value of the pilots to the local environment and commerce.

I was so impressed with the DVD that I couldn't help to think that its true value was international in scope; it will encourage the young to join the industry, will improve everyone's understanding of the maritime industry and thus their respect of the jobs done at sea. I would recommend this documentary to everyone – share it with your colleagues (particularly non-mariners), your family, your community, or just enjoy it yourself and feel proud. If more organisations could produce such material our industry would surely be better off.

Either DVD or video (specify NTSC or Pal format) can be bought via www.triadcommunications.ca

Ship Dynamics for Mariners

Captain Ian C Clark

The Nautical Institute

ISBN 1 87007 768 7, £50

In his book, Captain Clark brings together the work of the shipboard officer, the naval architect, the marine engineer and the marine researcher. He has successfully blurred the boundaries of the domains of each of these specialists to help give a deeper understanding of the work of others associated with ships. He has the gift of taking a complicated topic and downsizing it to a level comprehensible to the reader.

This is a book for masters and mates, naval architecture students on HNC and BSc courses and chief engineering and second engineering marine students. It will be advantageous to have as a quick reference book for recalling half-remembered information. It will be excellent for consultants working within the shipping industry.

The most striking thing about the book is the very professional presentation of the diagrams, which are in colour and greatly enhance the accompanying text. These are easy to understand, neat and concise.

In each chapter there is a clear explanation, leading to a final summary or solution. It gives the 'meat' without the 'packaging'. It is most interesting and above all it is a book that educates the reader. It has a fine balance of practical knowledge with theoretical knowledge. Both are very much up-to-date with modern shipping practice.

In several chapters, the problems and dangers that may occur at sea are given, followed by guidance for the ship's officer on how to eliminate or reduce these to an acceptable level.

Ship design, performance, dynamics, squat, interaction, resistance, propulsive systems (including the latest azimuth-pod designs), IMO requirements and vibration are described and analysed in detail. Rolling and pitching motions, ship-handling procedures, propeller theories and wave theory are also covered in Captain Clark's book. How did he find the time to get it all down on paper? There is truly a wealth of information contained here.

This is a book that I would have liked to possess as a naval architect student during my HNC and undergraduate studies. It is certainly an ideal reference book to have in one's study or office. I thoroughly recommend it.

Dr C B Barrass MSc, CEng, FRINA, CNI

The Captain Cook Encyclopaedia

John Robson

Chatham Publishing £30

ISBN 1 86176 225 9

As its name implies, this encyclopaedia is filled with a host of interesting facts, drawings and diagrams associated with the many voyages and experiences of Captain Cook. It is an excellent publication and one which presents an authoritative and accurate record of his life and times.

It is also a comprehensive and richly illustrated source of information of voyages of maritime exploration from 18th century Britain. John Robson has collected contributions from many different sources and authors to make a diverse compilation of essays. This book combines scholarly research with entertaining story-telling.

For those readers seeking even further information or specific details about the subject of Captain Cook, a considerable list of reference sources is provided.

Experience the atmosphere of a voyage of discovery to South Seas islands and enjoy an excellent read.

Captain M Wier FNI

Ship Sailing Rules

Klaas van Dokkum

Dokmar Maritime Publishers

ISBN 9 08063 307 0

Price on application to

www.Dokmar.com

This well illustrated, A4 hardback book provides a three-dimensional presentation of the encounters, lights and shapes as prescribed in accordance with the Colregs. The chapters follow the rules and are divided into the same sections: general, steering and sailing rules, lights and shapes; sound signals;