

recommended to general readers with an interest in shipwrecks, as it provides a comprehensive overview of shipwrecks around the globe, the development of the related academic discipline of underwater archaeology and the difference between it and commercial shipwreck-hunting. It can also be recommended as a textbook for any introductory university class on underwater archaeology or maybe even maritime history at large, basically for the same reasons. Recommending it to professional underwater archaeologists or maritime historians may be problematic as it does not include all the tools that would constitute a real reference book. The two chapters on the development of underwater archaeology and shipwreck hunting might be intellectual stimulating reads, but is that enough?

Given a suggested retail price of US \$35.00 the answer to this question might still be a “yes”. I would suggest purchasing the book, reading the two chapters, and then giving the book to one of your students or friends who might be interested in an introduction to the topic.

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**Kerry Jang. *Victory: 100-Gun First Rate 1765*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Seaforth Publishing, [www.seaforthpublishing.com](http://www.seaforthpublishing.com), ShipCraft No. 29, 2022. 64 pp., illustrations, tables, bibliography. UK £16.99, US \$28.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-3990-8573-1.**

The ShipCraft series provides modelers and those interested in the design and construction of various vessels of war with a wealth of detailed information on historical background, variations within type or class, and changes over time in appearance, equipment, and fittings. Traditionally, ShipCraft volumes present material on a class or vessel type from the Second World War or less-commonly, the First World War, the Vietnam War, or the years between wars. Series 29 is a departure from this approach, focusing for the first time on a period ship, Horatio Nelson’s famous and beloved HMS *Victory*.

Those familiar with the series will recognize the content and organization. A concise but well-researched history lesson is provided in the opening chapters, followed by a review of various model kits available on the market, a Model Maker’s showcase, and chapters dealing with appearance and paint schemes. The book concludes with a brief listing of print and on-line references, as well as sources for acquiring model kits of the *Victory* and related accessories.

Author Kerry Jang, an accomplished ship modeler, has previously published paperback books on kits and scratch-builts, as well as detailed kit reviews on-line. This series highlights his emphasis on thorough research and

proper use of this research during the build process. The slim book is crammed with invaluable and interesting events and details relevant to understanding how *Victory* was built, used, modified, and maintained over her long lifetime. Accompanying the text are numerous images of plans, paintings, photographs (of *Victory* and of representative models), and cross-section drawings. Detailed sidebars and image captions provide additional details and tips.

The introductory section entitled Design and Construction places the birth of this venerable warship within the context of contemporary shipbuilding design philosophy and conventions. The ship was of mostly unremarkable and standardized design and build – innovations, repairs, and at times, experimental modifications would come at various times during her long life. The Career Highlights piece details her first commission and her actions at Gibraltar, during the French Revolution, at the Battle of Cape St. Vincent and, of course, Trafalgar and its aftermath. Also included are her various latter-day repair and restoration adventures, providing the reader with a thorough and well-written synopsis of the major events that influenced the appearance of the ship as it exists today. A handy Service History table offers an at-a-glance reference to these major events by month and year, which will be useful to any modeler wanting to depict a particular period, alteration, or event.

The Model Products section reviews thirteen model kits of metal, resin, plastic, paper or wood with comments on their strengths and weaknesses and suggestions on how to overcome some of the problems in each kit or material type. To this end, this section also includes a summary of kit accessories and paints one might consider in order to enhance their model's appearance. This section leads into the Modelmaker's Showcase section, with numerous high-quality photographs of beautifully constructed scratch- and kit-built models. These are impressive and they depict a level of detail and attention to scale that the rest of us can, in vain, strive towards.

Similar to the earlier history sections, the Appearance and the Colour Schemes sections are comprehensive. The author depicts changes of major and minor components of the ship over time in an organized and logical fashion. These include stem to stern, topside, interior, rig, paint schemes, and masting and, to a lesser extent, rigging.

Minor editorial or design quibbles do not detract from this otherwise fine book; Jang ensures that the reader understands certain bits of seafaring jargon, such as *wearing*, *tacking*, *weather gauge*, in *Ordinary* and others by placing certain term in italics and following these with a layperson definition in parentheses. On occasion, the italics are dropped, the order of the term and definition is reversed (sometime perhaps because of sentence structure), or a term that would otherwise be expected to follow this convention is left unexplained (*lee*, *jury rig*, and a few others). As for layout, the inclusion of

numerous and very useful photos, particularly in the Model Products section, results in a breaking up of the text in a way that is sometimes mildly difficult to follow.

Not necessarily a shortcoming, but possibly bias from a reviewer who prefers wooden builds over plastics, metal, or resin: the Model Products section represents plastic kits, metal kits, and kits for tabletop gaming in abundance, with only limited discussion of wooden kits. Jang provides a short description of a few of the strengths and weakness of Caldercraft's offering, and a paragraph on Amati's not-yet-released (as of the date of Series 29's printing) *Victory* model but little else beyond tabular information: 16 wooden kits manufactured by 11 companies are represented by scale, the type of build (solid hull, plank on bulkhead, etc.), with one to four sentences commenting on content, accuracy, materials, and general quality. The emphasis on plastics and metals would be expected in a book covering the ShipCraft series' typical fare of both World Wars or later craft, but it is mildly curious for a period ship. In his introduction to the wooden model segment, the author even comments that one might expect a wooden ship to be modeled in wood. He then cautions the reader that most wooden kits are decorative before discussing ways that various shortcomings can be overcome.

*Victory: 100-Gun First Rate 1765* is a trove of information invaluable to anyone interested in creating a model of this famous vessel that is true to her built history and correct to the time during which the ship is being represented. Both the Model Products section and the Appearance section offer plenty of guidance to the modeler seeking a high level of accuracy. Whether commenting on the accurateness of the signal flags provided in certain kits meant to depict Nelson's orders, discussing changes to the size of *Victory's* name on her stern over time, or teasing out in exactly which period it boasted a squared beakhead bulkhead or a rounded bow, this book provides a wealth of details that sticklers for accuracy are sure to appreciate.

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**Rear Admiral John Kingwell, CBE. *Maritime Strike: The Untold Story of the Royal Navy Task Group off Libya in 2011*. Warwick, UK: Casemate, [www.casematepublishing.com](http://www.casematepublishing.com), viii+184 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. UK £20.00, US \$37.95, cloth; ISBN 978-1-63624-113-5.**

*Maritime Strike: The Untold Story of the Royal Navy Task Group of Libya in 2011* is a must read for all naval officers and operational planning staff. Rear Admiral John Kingwell commanded the Royal Navy Task Group that