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CONTENTS

Book Reviews

- Robert J. Antony and Angela Schottenhammer (eds.), *Beyond the Silk Roads: New Discourses on China's Role in East Asian Maritime History* by Ashleigh Dean / 209
- Christopher M. Bell, *Churchill and the Dardanelles* by Jan Drent / 211
- Christopher M. Bonin, *Virginia in the War of 1812* by Michael Tuttle / 213
- Thomas Böttcher and Christine Hieber, *Viermastbark Kruzenshtern ex Padua* by Christopher Krezschmar / 215
- Roger Branfill-Cook, *River Gunboats: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* by Mark Klobas / 216
- Geoffrey Brooke, *Alarm Starboard! A Remarkable True Story of the War at Sea* by C. Ross Patterson II / 218
- James E. Bruseth, Amy A. Borgens, Bradford M. Jones and Eric D. Ray, *La Belle. The Archeology of a Seventeenth-Century Ship of New World Colonization* by Alicia Caporazo / 220
- Jon Bursey, *Captain Elliot and the Founding of Hong Kong, Pearl of the Orient* by Diana Ritzie / 222
- R. A. Burt, *British Battleships 1889-1904* by Ambjorn Adomeit / 224
- Henry T. Cheever, *The Whale and his Captors: or, Whaleman's Adventures* by Michael Hadley / 225

- Nick Childs, *The Age of Invincible: The Ship that Defined the Modern Royal Navy* by Iain O`Shea / 227
- Jeffrey R. Cox, *Morning Star, Midnight Sun: The Early Guadalcanal-Solomons Campaign of World War II August–October 1942* by Jim Gallen / 228
- Leslie Dawson, *Fabulous Flying Boats. A History of the World’s Passenger Flying Boats* by Marc J. Alsina / 230
- Anthony B. Dickenson and Chesley Sanger, *After the Basques. The Whaling Stations of Newfoundland and Labrador* by C. Douglas Maginley / 231
- Aidan Dodson, *Before the Battlecruiser: The Big Cruiser in the World’s Navies 1865-1910* by Ross Patterson II / 233
- Sheilah Mackinnon Drover, *Ted Drover Ships Artist* by C. Douglas Maginley/235
- Brian Fagan, *Fishing. How the Sea Fed Civilization* by Christopher Magra / 237
- Andrew Forbes (ed.), *The Future of Sea Power. Proceedings of the RAN Sea Power Conference 2015* by Alex Clarke /238
- Robert Forsyth, *Shadow over the Atlantic. The Luftwaffe and the U-boats: 1943-45* by Jan Drent / 240
- John Gurda, *Milwaukee: A City Built on Water* by Jim Gallen / 243
- Simon J. Hall, *Last Voyage to Wewak. A tale of the sea: West Africa to the South Pacific* by Jane Plummer / 244
- Maura Hanrahan, *Unchained Man: The Arctic Life and Times of Captain Robert Abram Bartlett* by Lisle Rose / 245
- David Head (ed.), *The Golden Age of Piracy: The Rise, Fall, and Enduring Popularity of Pirates* by Michael Dove / 247
- Paul N. Hodos, *The Kaiser’s Lost Kreuzer: A History of U-156 and Germany’s Long-Range Submarine Campaign Against North America, 1918* by C. Douglas Kroll / 249
- Trent Hone, *Learning War. The Evolution of Fighting Doctrine in the U.S. Navy, 1898-1945* by Louis A. Norton / 250
- Peter Hore, *Henry Harwood - Hero of the River Plate* by Alex Clarke / 252
- Rick James, *Don’t Never Tell Nobody Nothin’ No How. The Real Story of West Coast Rum Running* by Louis A. Norton / 253

- E.R. Johnson, *United States Marine Corps Aircraft Since 1913* by Robert L. Shoop / 255
- Ben Jones (ed.), *The Fleet Air Arm in the Second World War, Volume II: 1942-1943 The Fleet Air Arm in Transition – The Mediterranean, Battle of the Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean* by C. Ross Patterson II / 257
- Philip Kaplan, *Building for Battle: U-Boat Pens of the Atlantic Battle* by Timothy Demy / 259
- Bruce Kemp, *Weather Bomb 1913: Life and Death on the Great Lakes* by Walter Lewis / 260
- Sarah Kinkel, *Disciplining the Empire: Politics, Governance, and the Rise of the British Navy* by Thomas Malcomson / 261
- Beverly Lemire, *Global Trade and the Transformation of Consumer Cultures. The Material World Remade, c.1500-18200* by Michael C. Tuttle / 265
- Alexandra Lohse and Jon Middaugh, *Operation Torch. The American Amphibious Assault on French Morocco 1942* by Robert L. Shoop / 266
- John McAleer and Nigel Rigby, *Captain Cook and the Pacific: Art, Exploration & Empire* by Barry Gough / 268
- Dennis McCann, *This Storied River. Legend & Lore of the Upper Mississippi* by Jim Gallen / 271
- Martin Mace, *The Royal Navy at Dunkirk: Commanding Officers' Reports of British Warships In Action During Operation Dynamo* by C. Ross Patterson II / 272
- Raoul McLaughlin, *The Roman Empire and the Indian Ocean: The Ancient World Economy and the Kingdoms of Africa, Arabia and India* by Michael F. Dove / 274
- Allan R. Millett, *In Many a Strife: General Gerald C. Thomas and the U.S. Marine Corps 1917-1956* by Iain O'Shea / 275
- Joseph Moretz, *Thinking Wisely, Planning Boldly: The Higher Education and Training of Royal Navy Officers, 1919-39* by Mark Klobas / 277
- Wes Olson, *The Last Cruise of a German Raider—The Destruction of SMS Emden* by Greg Swinden / 278
- Lincoln Paine, *Down East: An Illustrated History of Maritime Maine* by Louis A. Norton / 279

- Lawrence Paterson, *Otto Kretschmer: The Life of the Third Reich's Highest Scoring U-Boat Commander* by C. Ross Patterson II / 281
- Reinhard Paulsen, *Schiffahrt, Hanse und Europa im Mittelalter. Schiffe am Beispiel Hamburgs, europäische Entwicklungslinien und die Forschung in Deutschland* by Christopher Kretschmar / 283
- Nathaniel Philbrick, *In the Hurricane's Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown* by Louis A. Norton / 284
- Dag Pike, *Taming the Atlantic. The History of Man's Battle with the World's Toughest Ocean* by Jacob Bart Hak / 287
- Philip J. Potter, *Explorers and Their Quest for North America* by Jim Gallen / 287
- Russell A. Potter, *Finding Franklin. The Untold Story of a 165-Year Search* by Jan Drent / 289
- Warren C. Riess with Sheli O. Smith, *The Ship that Held Up Wall Street* by Doug Jones / 290
- L. H. Roper, *Advancing Empire. English Interests and Overseas Expansion, 1613–1688* by Sam McLean / 292
- Laura Rowe, *Morale and Discipline in the RN during the First World War* by Ian Yeates / 293
- Matthew S. Seligmann, *Rum, Sodomy, Prayers, and the Lash Revisited? Winston Churchill and Social Reform in the Royal Navy, 1900-1915* by John Matchim / 295
- Paul W. Simpson, *Neptune's Car. An American Legend* by C. Douglas Maginley / 297
- Myron J. Smith, Jr., *Joseph Brown and His Civil War Ironclads: The USS Chillicothe, Indianola and Tuscomb* by Howard Fuller / 299
- Ian Speller, *Understanding Naval Warfare* by Ambjorn Adomeit / 300
- Suzanne J. Stark, *Female Tars. Women Aboard Ship in the Age of Sail* by Maura Hanrahan / 302
- Robert C. Stern, *The Battleship Holiday: The Naval Treaties and Capital Ship Design* by Mark Klobas / 304
- Adrian Stewart, *The War with Hitler's Navy* by David More / 305
- John Stewart, *The Wreck of the San Francisco. Disaster and Aftermath in the Great Hurricane of December 1853* by Diana Ritzie / 307

Article Title	v
William Stewart, <i>Admirals of the World. A Bibliographical Dictionary, 1500 to the Present</i> by Jane Plummer	/ 308
Mark Stille, <i>Italian Cruisers of World War II</i> by Robert L. Shoop	/ 310
Jeremy Stöhs, <i>The Decline of European Naval Forces. Challenges to Sea Power in an Age of Fiscal Austerity and Political Uncertainty</i> by Mark Hamilton	/ 311
Peter Stone, <i>The History of the Port of London: A Vast Emporium of All Nations</i> by Michael F. Dove	/ 313
Corey Tazzara, <i>The Free Port of Livorno & the Transformation of the Mediterranean World 1574-1790</i> by Thomas Malcomson	/ 315
Peter Wadhams, <i>A Farewell to Ice. A Report to the Arctic</i> by Lisle Rose	/ 318
Jim Wellman, <i>The Call of the Ocean</i> by Jacob Bart Hak	/ 319
J. Michael Wenger, Robert J. Cressman, and John F. DiVirgilio, <i>This Is No Drill. The History of NAS Pearl Harbor and the Japanese Attacks of 7 December 1941</i> by Louis A. Norton	/ 319
Greg H. Williams, <i>The Last Days of the United States Asiatic Fleet: The Fates of the Ships and Those Aboard, December 8, 1941-February 5, 1942</i> by C. Ross Patterson II	/ 321
Rif Winfield and Stephen S. Roberts, <i>French Warships in the Age of Sail 1626-1786. Design, Construction, Careers and Fates</i> by Jane Plummer	/ 322

From the editor

It is a very special pleasure for me to write this brief introductory note as I have had nothing to do with the production of this issue. It is entirely of book reviews. Very many thanks indeed to Faye Kert, whom I recruited as the book reviews editor more than fifteen years ago, and to Walter Lewis, for putting this issue together.

There have been problems with the flow of articles (more below) and several of us independently arrived at the idea of a book reviews issue to get something out. After all, if we can have an issue, in fact a “double issue,” of just articles, why not one of just book reviews?

Almost from the inception of the journal, we have thought of the conference as being a source for articles. Grand as the theory might be, in practice it has not worked. I know that at first hand, as I am one of the culprits. I have published in the journal I think three times, yet I have given many more papers at CNRS conferences. And those papers that were turned into articles, frequently took five or more years. At every turn we are dependent on the time lines of others - authors to write and submit, referees (once found) to review and authors to revise. Maritime history is not a big field. I can only remember with envy, the anecdote my father told me about his last article. The title, as I recall was “Patristic Quotations and Early Gospel Sources,” published in the *Journal of New Testament Studies* in 1985. (That was in addition to his being both a military and a fur trade historian. He described the piece as an “Agatha Christie” that he worked on for twenty years.) After the piece had gone through the full editorial process, the editor advised him that it would “be put in the queue to be published.” That took two years! Oh to have such an abundance of material. There would be no excuse for the journal being as much as a day late! It would appear that maritime history is not on quite the same footing as theological history.

In addition to thanking my colleagues Faye and Walter, thanks also to all our members who are understanding of our publishing delays.

Bill Glover
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