

stories and museums strive. It is made clear that publicity and fascination are not the same as education and value, either monetarily or culturally.

It is quite possible that without Daniel Gifford's ancestral tie to and vested interest in the history and legacy of *Progress*, this story might never have been told. Be it a cautionary tale for historians, archaeologists, and curators, or a tale of one of the last survivors of a bygone era and the complications that surrounded the last attempt at showcasing its glory, Gifford's book is an excellent addition to any personal or professional library.

Olivia L. T. Fuller
College Station, Texas

Michael Gillen. *Merchant Marine Survivors of World War II: Oral Histories of Cargo Carrying Under Fire*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing, www.mcfarlandbooks.com, 2020. xi+213 pp., illustrations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. US \$29.95, paper; ISBN 978-0-7864-9467-5. (E-book available.)

When the naval history of the Second World War is considered, even when it is granted the sole position of consideration within a work, it is almost exclusively discussed in terms of the overtly militaristic aspects of that history. Primarily, this takes the form of considerations of the various fleet movements and engagements, particularly where they related to the air and land wars. In this way, those who were engaged in the war, on waters spanning the globe, are largely considered to be members of the armed uniform services with infrequent consideration of the civilian aspects of the war. Infrequently considered in studies of the Second World War are the men of the U.S. Merchant Marine, the

civilian auxiliaries to the Navy, whose duty it was to carry supplies vital to the war effort, and whose significant sacrifices to the war effort often receive scant recognition. With *Merchant Marine Survivors of World War II: Oral Histories of Cargo Carrying Under Fire*, Michael Gillen, former merchant mariner and professor of Asian History at Pace University in New York, focuses on those sacrifices through a collection of twenty oral histories from Merchant Marine veterans.

Nearly thirty-five years in the writing, the book began when Gillen was serving as the director of the preservation efforts on the Liberty Ship SS *John W. Brown*. He was motivated to begin interviewing veterans of the Merchant Marine who had served in the Second World War. Because all of the oral histories that he presents in the book were collected between 1978 and 1987, all of his subjects unfortunately died before their stories were published.

The central focus of these stories, as hinted at in the title of the book, is not just the men's war service but their survival, often in the face of extremely trying circumstances. While Gillen initially intended that all of his subjects should have survived the torpedoing of at least one ship on which they served during the war, he came to conclude "that all who served, whether torpedoed or not, contributed vitally and 'paid with some of their own' in multiple ways ... that could, from the trauma of it, endure for years." (4) Gillen diligently prepares an introductory paragraph about each interviewee's career prior to their particular story, as well as a concluding paragraph summarizing their career after those events. Beyond those contributions, he has been very careful to allow the voices of his subjects to maintain their often rough, occasionally colourful, authenticity.

This authenticity is in many ways one of the most valuable aspects of the book, creating an emotional connectedness that hooks the casual reader, while also providing the kind of information that scholars find so tantalizing. These gripping accounts cover the globe, representing experiences of merchant sailors who were in Manila as it fell, who had to hurriedly evacuate sinking ships in nearly every major body of water, who aided in the invasion of Okinawa, and even those who were captured by German naval auxiliary units. Those with an interest in the Second World War in the Arctic, will certainly appreciate three different accounts from survivors of the ill-fated PQ-17 convoy, as well as outsider descriptions of wartime life in Archangel and Murmansk, Russia. Although not an exhaustive collection of accounts, the book highlights the enormous contributions made by members of the U.S. Merchant Marine in the Second World War.

Gillen deserves a large amount of praise for his skill as an interviewer, particularly given the numerous decades that had passed before he recorded his subjects' accounts. In reading these memoirs there is little sense of the length time that has passed, or of major holes in the narrative. This leads interested readers to a better understanding of the various subjects' experiences and provides researchers with a greater level of evidence. As a former merchant mariner himself, Gillen is deeply familiar with the terminology and enjoys a level of credibility that is a major part of the book's success—from which we all benefit. The downside to the long time that it took for this project to reach fruition it is that any research interest it generates in the U.S. Merchant Marine in the period will be blunted by the inevitable deaths of those veterans. On the other hand, the book finally turns

the spotlight on the role of the merchant marine in the Second World War. As these men were not granted veteran status until 1988, it can be hoped that *Merchant Marine Survivors of World War II* will promote more research into their contributions and grant the merchant mariners their rightful place in the history of that war well before the centennial of their service.

Michael Toth
Fort Worth, Texas

Brett Goodin. *From Captives to Consuls: Three Sailors in Barbary and Their Self-Making Across the Early American Republic, 1770-1840*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, www.press.jhu.edu, 2020. xii+201 pp., illustrations, notes, index, bibliography. US \$49.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-42143-897-9.

In *From Captives to Consuls*, Brett Goodin has written a scholarly, collective biography that explores the lives of three Americans who shared two characteristics: all were mariners in the early republic, and all were held as slaves in the Maghreb, the Barbary world of North Africa. Goodin, a post-doctoral fellow at New York University, Shanghai, has amassed impressive details about the lives of Richard O'Brien (1758-1824), James Leander Cathcart (1767-1843), and James Riley (1777-1840) from all sorts of hitherto unknown sources. Using concepts of "Othering" and Orientalism, Goodin tries to demonstrate that these men drew on their Barbary experiences to influence the non-elite American "Village Enlightenment" understanding of the Islamic world. But Goodin goes far beyond their captivity experiences. Through the three not-quite-parallel lives of these men, Goodin illustrates