

BOOKS

WEST COAST WRECKS

& Other Maritime Tales

By RICK JAMES

Never the most benign maritime region, the west coast of Canada has more than its fair share of shipwrecks.

The widely published author is an archaeologist who, quite obviously, is fascinated with maritime history and what shipwrecks tell us about it.

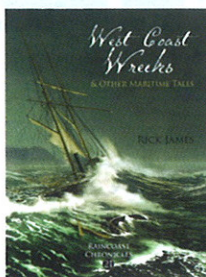
All the usual causes of shipwrecks are here, bad weather, bad seamanship, bad economics and bad management. As well, the author describes many wrecks that were deliberately scuttled as the vessels concerned had reached or passed their "use by" dates.

The brief, succinct vignettes are enhanced by a good selection of black and white photographs as well as a few etchings.

Some very interesting yarns.

Available from Harbour Publishing, Madeira Park, Canada.

Web: www.harbourpublishing.com



THE BATTLESHIP USS MASSACHUSETTS

Super Drawings in 3D

By STEFAN DRAMINSKI

Described as "a crucial reference for building a detailed model of 'USS Massachusetts', this booklet is that and a lot more.

Ship modellers are fastidious and they need to know every detail of the ships they are modelling. Fortunately for them, this famous battleship that was commissioned in May 1942, is still afloat as a museum. At least her details can still be checked accurately.

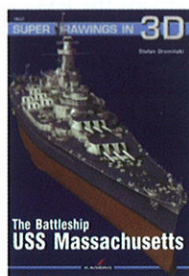
A battleship of the South Dakota class, the 27-knot 'Massachusetts' primary armament was nine sixteen-inch guns in three turrets. She had a vast array of other guns and, apart from a weakness in the anti-torpedo area, was a very powerful ship.

This we know from the excellent historical notes that invariably accompany these ship modellers' guides. Apart from that there is detail upon detail upon detail from the very sharp photographs of a brilliant model of the ship.

There is also a very clear general arrangement drawing of the ship as she was in 1945. For anyone interested in capital ships of the era, this is as fine and detailed an exposure as you will ever see.

Available from Casemate UK, London, UK.

Web: www.kagero.pl



THE SHARK'S PAINTBRUSH

Biomimicry and How Nature is Inspiring Innovation

By JAY HARMAN

A refinement on Darwin. The author has a most interesting and agile mind. Inspired by some of the strange examples from nature he innovatively adopts for business.

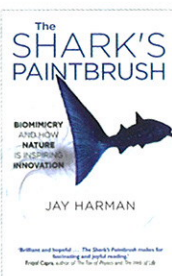
An inventor and entrepreneur, Harman is a California (where else?) dwelling Australian. He is clearly fascinated with many natural phenomena and has thought deeply about how to adapt their benefits to modern human existence.

The whale shark's colour scheme is just one of many examples he looks at but it is arresting and thought provoking. So is most of the remainder of the book.

If you are looking for some good ideas for your business, this book may be way-out there but it's still worth reading. It's in the same league as the original *Freakonomics*.

Available from Nicholas Brealey Publishing, London, UK.

Web: www.nicholasbrealey.com



BEAUTIFUL TUFI

Between the Past and the Future Coastal Life in Papua New Guinea

By JAN HASSELBURG

One for the dreamers or at least those dreamers who fantasise about life in a tropical paradise.

The author is a Swedish/Norwegian secondary school teacher who has lived the dream, at least part time, during a number of visits to PNG. He is a very accomplished photographer.

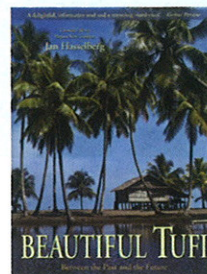
Like his current home in Bergen, Norway, Tufi is surrounded by fjords which have, perhaps, given the author an even stronger affinity with the area on the north coast of PNG.

Interspersed among his own photographs are some very high-quality historical ones that help to weave the tale of this enchanted place. He doesn't resile from the fact that this paradise has had its problems. Probably the worst was the murderous Japanese invasion of World War II but since then the peace has been disturbed by avaricious timber and fishing companies.

The world marches on but, hopefully, this delightful book will encourage the at least partial preservation of this enchanting place.

Available from AuthorHouse, Milton Keynes, UK.

Web: www.authorhouse.co.uk



REBALANCING US FORCES

Basing and Forward Presence in the Asia Pacific

Edited by CARNES LORD
and ANDREW S ERICKSON

Our world continues to change very rapidly. The rise of China combined with America's embarrassing retreats from Iraq and Afghanistan have led to much re-thinking among America's defence intelligentsia.

At the forefront of this, as usual, is the Naval War College which proves, yet again, that "military intellectual" is not an oxymoron. If this book is any indication, the War College and its connections are still strong and useful thinkers.

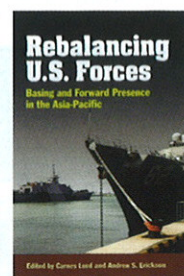
Despite its many disasters in the seven decades after its brilliant successes in World War Two, the American military machine still believes it can walk on water. In the sense of brute force, it could and still can. However, it has been unwilling and unable to do so and has suffered accordingly.

This first rate collection of essays looks beyond Iraq and Afghanistan and takes a clear-eyed look at where America's military future lies.

Refreshingly thoughtful and sensible.

Available from The Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, USA.

Web: www.nip.org



WHITE STAR LINE

A Photographic History

By JANETTE McCUTCHEON

The White Star Line was established in Liverpool in 1871 to run transatlantic steamships. For nearly sixty years it was fast growing and profitable and its ships were glamorous.

Its most famous, or infamous ship, was the 'Titanic' but most of the others were renowned for their luxury, safety and reliability until the last, 'Britannic', was scrapped in 1960.

The Great Depression really led to the end of White Star as an independent company. In 1934 it had to merge with the Cunard Line. It, in turn, has in more recent years become just another over-hyped brand in the Carnival Cruise Lines supermarket of shipping "names".

With her numerous fine pictures and brief but interesting text, the author takes us back to the Line's glory days. She shows very clearly just how glorious they were.

Available from Amberley Publishing, Stroud, UK.

Web: www.amberley-books.com

