BOOKS

ALLIES AGAINST THE RISING SUN

The United States, the British Nations, and the Defeat of Imperial Japan

By NICHOLAS EVAN SARANTAKES

This is a timely, fascinating and very illuminating history of the latter part of the Second World War in the Pacific.

It describes the intense interplay between the leaders of the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and India in the decision making as to who was to do what in the eventual effort to defeat the lapanese.

The personal and nationalistic jealousies and, even, hatreds are described brilliantly. So, also, are the personalities and egos of those involved. Their feuds and co-operations and sometimes amazing friendships are all illuminated.

It was a tense, desperate time. How this disparate and often disagreeable group of egos managed to co-operate so effectively is amazing. The author, however, shows very clearly how victory was achieved.

Available from University Press of Kansas. Lawrence, USA.

Web: www.kansaspress.ku.edu

REEDS DICTIONARY OF SHIPPING AND MARINE FINANCE

By HONORÉ C. PAELINCK

Maritime terminology is traditional but constantly developing. Containerisation, alone, has brought with it a whole new lexicon since about 1970. Similarly, the offshore service sector has

Similarly, the offshore service sector has inspired the use of hundreds of new words. Marine finance, too has developed rapidly over the last half century.

Again, most of us in the maritime world use English as our lingua franca or common language. Our American friends, however, have practically another dictionary full of their own peculiar terminology and spellings.

peculiar terminology and spellings.

Fortunately for all of us, this handy little dictionary has been published to assist us to understand each other. A very valuable addition to the means of marine communication.

Available from Adlard Coles Nautical. London, UK.
Web: www.adlardcoles.com

web: www.aaiaracoies.com

SOMETHING RICH & STRANGE

Sea Changes, Beaches and the Littoral in The Antipodes

Edited by SUSAN HOSKING, RICK HOSKING, REBECCA PANNELL and NINA BIERBAUM

A fascinating and sometimes disconcerting collection of essays on the Australian coast.

The land that its national anthem proclaims is "girt by sea".

The authors are a disparate collection of mainly senior academics. They are all from institutions in the south-eastern states. Perhaps that colours their views.

A curious but often entrancing collection of historical summary, speculation and current comment, it is a most interesting addition to the literature on the Australian coast.

Odd but absorbing.

Available from Wakefield Press. Kent Town, Australia. Web: www.wakefieldpress.com.au

s Finglish as our

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND REVEALED

Flinders and Bass and Their Circumnavigation of the Island in the Colonial Sloop Norfolk 1798 –1799

Edited by DAN SPROD

This is a very important book which has been restricted to a very select audience since only 775 copies have been printed.

It concerns the establishment as fact that Van Diemen's Land, nown Tasmania was separated from the mainland of what is now known as Australia by Bass Strait! (more correctly Bass's Strait!).

The two adventurous and well educated young naval officers, Matthew Flinders, a navigator, and George Bass, a surgeon, have received considerable acclaim for their Australian explorations. For some reason, however, their circumnavigation of Van Diemen's Land has received little notice.

This first rate book solves that problem very effectively, Essentially, it is a very well edited collection of their original account, some commentaries, notes, references and three facsimiles of their original charts.

A very valuable addition to the history of Australian exploration and navigation.

Available from Blubber Head Press, Sandy Bay, Australia. Web: www.astrolabebooks.com.au

SUNK WITHOUT TRACE

30 Dramatic Accounts of Yachts Lost at Sea

By PAUL GELDER

While these accounts are not of the travails of working vessels, they are instructive nevertheless.

These are accounts of the loss of a wide-range of yachts, mostly small, in a wide range of places and for a wide range of reasons.

The important thing is that most of the reports have been related by survivors. Even more important is the "lessons learned" summary at the end of each report.

Most are simple, practical, common sense but enlightening. The "why didn't I think of that" kind of revelation. The similarities between yachts and work boats make it worth reading this interesting little book.

Available from Adlard Coles Nautical. London, UK.

Web: www.adlardcoles.com

CRUISING FOR TROUBLE

Cruise Ships as Soft Targets for Pirates, Terrorists, and Common Criminals

By CDR. MARK GAOUETTE

Like your reviewer, Commander Gaouette is not a great enthusiast for cruising on large ships. Your reviewer dislikes the crowds, restrictions, false hophomic and excessive uninteresting.

bonhomie and excessive, uninteresting food as well as the health and safety risks.

Probably as a result of spending too much time as a security consultant to the cruise industry, the author's complaints are more to do with the many security defects and vulnerabilities of cruise ships. He's not too enthusiastic about their vulnerability to infectious diseases or human errors either.

Apart from the inevitable environmental damage they cause and the dubious business practices of some of their owners, the security and safety deficiencies described here verge on the frightening.

The callousness and carelessness of the cruise line executives described by the author are also alarming. It is an industry that is out of control and appears likely to be heading for a major disaster. The author describes a horrifying pattern of arrogant and increasingly dangerous attitudes.

Available from Praegar, Santa Barbara, USA. Web: www.abc-clio.com



