

Library Research Guides: Maritime History and Marine Art

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One definition of Marine Art describes paintings, an art medium different than sculpture or film, etc., which is represented below in the Library Collections. Our selection in books shows painters who depicted ships, views of sailors, masters, crew, and objects of maritime significance primarily between the Victorian Era (1830s to 1900) through the 20th century. For a more complete abstract history of the art of portraying the sea and ships in pictures, see Peter Kemp, in the Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea, 1976, page 521, who recounts: "... the earliest known pictures of ships and boats are those which decorate Egyptian pottery... around 3200 B.C." and further that "... representations of the sea and ships appear in many paintings of the early Renaissance..." and, further, that "... the true birth of marine painting... occurred in Holland in the late 16th century." Later in his entry on Marine painting, on page 524, Kemp discloses, "... world wars of the 20th century produced a plethora of marine artists... a result of naval appointments of painters as official artists to record scenes of naval activity."

Remember that paintings of ships and maritime views may be found in many books that are not about art, but have used paintings as illustrations, rather than photographs which were not available at the time of printing. The Los Angeles Maritime Museum's collections of paintings and other works of art may be consulted separately: please call the Museum for more information at 310-548-7618. Not all books on the subject of the marine art are included here; if you do not see what you are looking for, please call the Library at 310-54807618 x 215.

Artists' Monographs

1. Antonio Jacobsen-- the checklist : paintings and sketches by Antonio N.G. Jacobsen, 1850-1921 / compiled by Harold S. Sniffen.
2. American maritime paintings of John Stobart. / [by] John Stobart with Robert P. Davis, 1991.
3. Arthur Edwaine Beaumont, Naval Artist, 1890-1978. / Alison Barrett Beaumont, 1989.
4. Hulls and hulks in the tide of time : the life and work of John A. Noble. / by Erin Urban, 1993.
5. J. & J. Bard, picture painters. / by A.J. Peluso, 1977.
6. Joe Duncan Gleason rediscovering California's marine art master. / De Chevreux, Marcus, Curator. 2003
7. Naval battles of World War II 1939-1945; illustrated by naval artist Arthur E. Beaumont.../ compiled by Dean Beaumont, 1985, c1977.
8. Stobart : the rediscovery of America's maritime heritage / John Stobart with Robert P. Davis, 1985.

Dictionaries / Encyclopedias:

1. The decorative arts of the mariner. / by Gervis Frere-Cook, 1966.
2. A descriptive catalogue of the marine collection to be found at India House.
3. Dictionary of marine artists. / by Dorothy E.R. Brewington, 1982.
4. Dictionary of sea painters / E.H.H. Archibald, 1989.

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Etchings, Prints:

1. American naval broadsides : a collection of early naval prints (1745-1815). / by Edgar Newbold Smith ; foreword by M. V. Brewington, 1974.
2. Clipper ship prints including other merchant sailing ships by N. Currier and Currier & Ives./ compiled by Fred. J. Peters, 1930.
3. Currier & Ives, printmakers to the American people, by Harry T. Peters, 1942.

Exhibition catalogs:

1. American marine painting : a loan exhibition on display at Virginia Museum, September 27-October 31, 1976, and the Mariners Museum, November 8-December 12, 1976 / organized by Frederick Robert Brandt : consultant on the exhibition, John Wilmerding./Virginia Museum of Fine Arts./Mariners' Museum (Newport News, Va.), 1976.
2. American naval prints : from the Beverly R. Robinson Collection, U.S. Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland / introd. by Roger B. Stein ; circulated by the International Exhibitions Foundation, 1976-1977./International Exhibitions Foundation./Mariners' Museum (Newport News, Va.)
3. The marine paintings and drawings in the Peabody Museum. / by M. V. and Dorothy Brewington, 1988.
4. Masters of the sea : British marine watercolours. / Roger Quarm, Scott Wilcox, 1987.
5. More marine paintings and drawings in the Peabody Museum / by Philip Chadwick Foster Smith.

Votive offerings in art:

Ex-voto marins dans le monde : de l'antiquité à nos jours : [exposition], Musée de la marine, Palais de Chaillot, Paris, 1981 / Centre national de la recherche scientifique (Laboratoire associé d'histoire maritime), Association pour la sauvegarde et l'étude des ex-voto marins et fluviaux, 1981. (French language.)

Maritime museums:

1. Concise catalogue of oil paintings in the National Maritime Museum / compiled by the staff of the National Maritime Museum, 1988.
2. Maritime America : art and artifacts from America's great nautical collections. / edited and introduced by Peter Neill, 1988.

Painting Techniques:

1. Marine painting in watercolor. / by Edmond J. Fitzgerald, 1975, c1972.
2. The complete book of maritime design : a compendium of naval art and painting. / with an introduction by David Cordingly, 1998.
3. The art of nautical illustration a visual tribute to the achievements of the classic marine illustrators. / by Michael E. Leek, 1998, c1991.

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Ships Pictorial views:

1. Ships and shipping; a collection of pictures including many American vessels, painted by Antoine Roux and his sons, with introductory text by Louis Brás and reminiscences by Edouard Gaubert, translated and annotated by Alfred Johnson, 1925.
2. The tall ship in art : Roy Cross, Derek Gardner, John Groves, Geoff Hunt, Mark Myers. / foreword by Alex A. Hurst, 1988.