

The Lighthouse by Dudley Whitney

Back by popular demand is this beautiful tome on lighthouses. Originally published by the New York Graphic Society in 1975, this book quickly sold out and became one of the most sought after used lighthouse books. Now it has been republished, again in hard cover, with many beautiful color and black and white photographs of our favorite subject. The book begins with the usual smattering of history, discussion on optics and tower construction. These chapters are laced with unusual photographs and interesting drawings. About half of the light station portion deals with those of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The last portion, about a quarter of the book, skips and hops down the east coast from Maine to Key West landing here and there with sketchy descriptions of light stations. Not all the stations are covered, but there are some very unusual photographs of the stations that are included. Although there are some factual errors, I would recommend this book for the wonderful "flavor of the bean" that it provides. From distant mood photos to detail shots of the circular staircases, galleries and lenses, the pictures really make it the best "coffee table" book on lighthouses we have seen. Hard cover and dust jacket, 9 1/2 x 12 1/4, 256 pages, hundreds of color and black and white contemporary photos and drawings and a few historical photos.

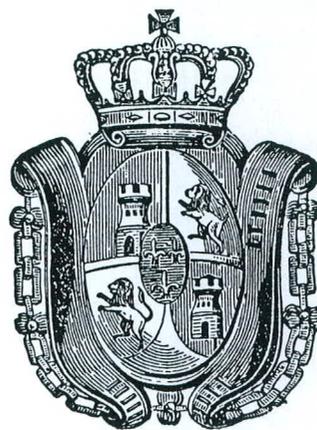
Perhaps the most amazing thing about this second edition is the price. The original, back in 1975, sold for \$29.95. The new version, exactly the same as the first, costs only \$17.99 (plus shipping and handling from the Keeper's Library); talk about deflation and a best buy!

Southern Lighthouses by Bruce Roberts and Ray Jones

This volume details most of the lighthouses which still exist from Chesapeake Bay through the Gulf of Mexico. It's a beautiful book, clean and very well laid out with spectacular color photos and some in black and white. The area being discussed is broken into sections "Chapter II - The Lights of the Big Sand Islands; North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia." Each light discussed has an accompanying italic sidebar that provides information on getting to that particular lighthouse with phone numbers when applicable. Each section also has a simple outline of that portion of the coast depicting, roughly, where each lighthouse is located.

There are some historical errors in the text and the historical aspect is rather broad brush, but it would be a beautiful addition to any lighthouses lover's library.

Soft cover, 8 1/2" x 11", 111 pages, photos on nearly every page. Available through the Keeper's Library at \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.



Foreign Affairs

Gibb's Hill Lighthouse

Southampton, Bermuda

Keeper Paul Markson, and several other members, have sent information on the Gibb's Hill lighthouse in Bermuda. They state that this is a "must see" lighthouse if you are ever in Southampton. This cast iron tower was constructed in 1846 and still has the clockworks and Fresnel len in the lantern room. Gibb's Hill is 245 feet high and the tower another 117 feet. Although it was automated in 1964, there is still a keeper and one assistant assigned to maintain the equipment and give tours. It is open daily and has an entrance fee of \$1.50. Keeper Markson says the view from the tower, alone, is worth the price of admission.

Pladda Lighthouse

Scotland

Member Ian Duff, the last keeper of the Pladda Light Station off the coast of Scotland sent us a Post Card dated February 3, 1990 on the occasion of its automation. The lighthouse had been manned continuously for 200 years, from 1790 to this year.

Lighthouse Proposed

Dominican Republic

The 82 year old Dominican Republic President, facing an election this year, is trying to wow voters with the construction of a \$20 million lighthouse. The nine story beacon would be constructed outside the capital city of Santo Domingo and dedicated to Christopher Columbus; in fact his bones would be placed in the monument. High tech lighting would sweep 3,000 feet into the sky. Unfortunately this project is not viewed with the same enthusiasm by the local population who receive a scant 10 hours of electricity a day. The island's electrical system is in very poor condition. However, the project is proceeding. On January 30, 1990 the first test of the lighting system worked perfectly, casting the image of a cross into the night sky... while the rest of the country blacked out.