

Lighthouses of the Pacific Coast: Your Guide to the Lighthouses of California, Oregon & Washington

Text by Randy Leffingwell & Pamela Welty
Photographs by Randy Leffingwell

This latest volume on lighthouses, hot off the press, is one of the most visually satisfying pictorials on the subject to ever come along. Randy Leffingwell has an eye for whatever subject he tackles (I have seen other examples of his work) and an eye for beauty. Words like breathtaking, luscious, lovely and dreamy all apply in describing this coffee table book.

Randy has captured the feeling of lighthouses as well as their surroundings. He has captured the spirit of lighthouses, from sweeping panoramas which include a lighthouse, to unique interior and exterior views and small vignettes focusing on details like a USLHS wall clock, a corner of a keeper's bedroom or kitchen, the grounds of a light station and sections of a lens. Wonderful photography and visuals portray, romantically, a quieter age of a vanished profession which existed along our shores for many years.

Unfortunately, the text leaves a lot to be desired. Although it attempts to chronicle the history of the development of West Coast light stations and explain the various components of a light station, it fails in accuracy and paints, in some cases, a misleading picture. The book title includes the statement "Your

Guide...", yet it really isn't much of a guide. An appendix at the back does offer short paragraph capsules of many West Coast lighthouses and whether they are accessible or not, but does not provide detailed directions to them save a latitude and longitude coordinate which most members of the public would have a hard time converting to a location.

Much of the contemporary information about the status of the light stations today and the work of the hard-working Coast Guard aids to navigation teams (ANTs) is accurate and interesting, but the book fails in the history department.

Still, I would certainly want this volume in my library, just to gaze at the gorgeous photographs, many shot at sunset. They are artistically framed and express a range of moods. The physical sense of the West Coast is nicely captured and the book, overall, is very nicely laid out. The beautiful hard cover is mirrored by the dust cover.

Hard cover, 9" by 11", 176 pages, numerous color photographs. \$29.95 plus shipping and handling through the Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts, (800) 320-2130.

Guarding New Jersey's Shore - Lighthouses and Life Saving Stations

By David Veasey

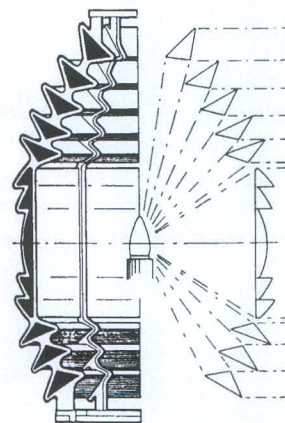
Another book is available in the Arcadia series about lighthouses, and, in some cases, life saving stations. This latest volume joins similar books about lighthouses and life saving stations of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and two on lighthouses of Florida and California.

David Veasey's book is equally divided between the Lighthouse Service and the Life Saving Service. He stretches the New Jersey shore a tad to include a few lighthouses in New York and Delaware. Many of the photographs are rare, and to the best of our knowledge, have never been published in books before. They include several images of lighthouses under construction as well as seldom-seen lightships.

The Life Saving Service half of the book is divided into a brief history of the service with many photos of personnel and their equipment. A chapter on the actual stations follows.

The Arcadia books follow a simple formula; each book has a sepia-toned cover photo, all are same length (128 pages) and have about the same number of photos (about 160). The text is mostly limited to captions accompanying the photos. It's a quick read, but each volume is an interesting look at a different portion of our coastline and its lighthouses and life stations.

Soft cover, 6" by 9", 128 pages, about 160 photos. Available through Lighthouse Gallery and Gifts, (800) 320-2130.



Catadioptric fixed lens

Lights For Lighthouses - 1855

Chance Brothers

A reprint of an 1855 manual published by the Chance Brothers of Birmingham, England has been reprinted. Actually, the full title is *Description and Plans of Lights for Lighthouses According to the Catadioptric System of Augustin Fresnel and the Holophotal System and Other Improvements* (wheew!).

This reprint contains some very nice line drawings of various types and sizes of lenses and considerable technical information, including hand-written notes regarding the cost in sterling (1855 prices) of the various components of lenses, equipment and supplies.

This is an interesting read (although it has no plot), especially for the technically minded and a nice addition to any lighthouse museum's library.

This soft cover, 8" by 11", 50-page manual has been reproduced by the good folks at the Horton Point Lighthouse, on the east end of Long Island. You may obtain a copy by sending \$11.00 to: Horton Point Lighthouse, P.O. Box 421, Southold, NY 11971-0421. They'll pay the postage.