

Brothers in England, the famous lighthouse lens makers. Chance, who lives in South Africa, suggested that this is one of the best books he has read about the lighthouses of South Africa, and I agree.

I enjoyed the style of the book immensely. About six to eight pages of descriptions; dramatic photographs taken by world-renowned photographer Gerald Hoberman with views from the land, the sea, and the air; and a page or two covering general history illustrate each lighthouse. Hoberman consulted with James Collocott, manager of the Lighthouse Service of the Transnet National Ports Authority and vice president of the IALA (International Association of Lighthouse Authorities), and Harold Williams, retired lighthouse engineer, to provide additional technical and historic details about each light. Also included are more than 45 maps of the various locations, along with nautical poems and quotations and a general view of the surroundings of each lighthouse location.

Each lighthouse listing includes its position, nearest town, date commissioned, architect, builder, material from which constructed, cost, height of tower, height of focal plane, optics (original and replacements through time), light source, light character, intensity, range, other equipment, South African heritage status, whether manned, and if open to the public.

While the book covers 45 of the lights in South Africa, it also includes photographs giving a much broader view of the country's fauna and flora, as well as many detailed photos of interesting artifacts in and about each lighthouse, including some of the keepers. It also provides graphic accounts of the terror of shipwrecks in the area and the story of the local and colonial lobbying for the establishment of the lighthouses.

You can take an armchair trip around the coast of South Africa seeing each lighthouse and learning about the area. Although it is not as good as taking a U.S. Lighthouse Society tour of the lights, you will still come away with a full understanding of the lighthouses of South Africa.

The book is on the more costly side due to import costs, yet it is still an extraordinary buy based on its quality and contents. If you are at all interested in the South African lighthouses or if you just want a fantastic coffee table book to impress your friends, I suggest that you buy a copy.

Hard cover, 384 pages, 12 x 12 inches, more than 600 photographs, \$69.35. Published in November 2009. Available on Amazon.com. ISBN 978-1-919939-51-3.

The Lighthouses of Greece

By Elinor DeWire &
Dolores Reyes-Pergioudakis
Reviewed by Wayne Wheeler

I am always pleased to learn that another Elinor DeWire lighthouse book has rolled off the press. DeWire is one of the few premier authors on lighthouses. She is a no-nonsense writer who does her homework and more often than not conducts on-site visits to those beacons she is writing about. This work on the lighthouses of Greece is no exception. Additionally, in this case, she had the good sense to team up with Dolores Reyes-Pergioudakis, who, the cover states, "... is a multilingual cultural liaison and freelance writer and photographer who has lived in Greece for almost two decades." Reyes-Pergioudakis also happens to be married to a Hellenic Naval Officer and that, of course, helps one get the "keys" to the kingdom, as it were.

I am also pleased to see a comprehensive volume on this subject, as I led three Society tours to the lighthouses of Greece, each slightly different than the previous tour. How I wish this book had been available during those tours. But, at least I can now fill in some blanks to what we experienced

during our wide-ranging, two-plus-week travels around that country.

The book is divided into two parts. The first, the "Introduction," includes the obligatory mention of the world's first lighthouses (mentioned in so many books we should know this area by heart). But it also has some very interesting information on the sordid journey that Greek lighthouses have had to thread over the years. Poor Greece, for so many years it was under somebody's thumb: Romans, Venetians, French, British, Ottoman, and Germans. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Greece was twice controlled by the Turks. So severe was the Turk domination that much of their history was obliterated, including the history of their lighthouse service.

The "Introduction" includes a section on "The Ravages of War and Reconstruction" and the "Modern Era," ending with a nice sidebar about the "Father of the Modern Greek Lighthouse Service."

"Part II" contains 10 sections, each addressing a different geographical section of Greece: the mainland, Peloponnese, Crete, and island groups. Each light station covered is allotted one page, at least one photograph, and a listing of five facts (location, date established, height of tower and focal plane, and its characteristic). The facts are followed by an interesting condensed history of the station and occasionally information on access.

The book contains some very interesting human and technical sidebars, a few historic photographs, and a simple map in each section roughly illustrating where the light stations in the section are located.

This is a "meaty," well-researched book (not an easy task) that required the authors to travel far and wide visiting the scattered areas (islands) of Greece. It includes several interviews with keepers and members of the Hellenic Lighthouse Service and some wonderful photographs.

The Lighthouses of Greece is a keeper and one that you will want to add to your collection and an absolute must for any lighthouse enthusiast traveling to the area.

Soft cover; full color, 11 x 7 inches, 170 pages, \$16.95.

