National and Regional Resources

Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

P.O., Box 2907
Southfield, MI 48037

The GLLKA is dedicated to lighthouses and lighthouse lore of the Great Lakes. They have divided the association into chapters named after each of the Great Lakes.

A $10 annual membership fee provides a quarterly periodical packed with interesting lighthouse facts of this region of the country.

Recent issues have been dedicated to pinpointing the lighthouses on each lake, one issue featuring Lake Erie, the next Lake Huron, etc.

This society should be of interest to lighthouse lovers all over the nation.

The Nautical Research Centre

335 Vallejo Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
(707) 763-8453

The Nautical Research Centre is a privately owned public library. Though much of the collection deals with books about the history of the Age of Sail, the main theme and interest is with the Lighthouse and Life-Saving Services of the world.

The lighthouse collection consists of more than 200 books and pamphlets and well over 7,000 illustrations of lighthouses and related materials, all available through an extensive cross reference file.

The work done and information collected by the center is to be shared. Any work done by the center to answer your questions will be free of charge. They do request a self-addressed stamped envelope to be included with any request and copies of documents or photos will be supplied to you at the center's cost of copying the documents or photographs.

The library is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. but please call for reservations.

The Nautical Research Centre would like to hear from members of the USLHS and would like to maintain an index of other reference material available through USLHS members. The center requests the loan of related material to make copies for the library.

POSTCARDS OF LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

The Shore Village Museum requests old or new postcards of lighthouses and lightships. The museum is assembling the largest collection in the country. Please send any duplicate or unwanted postcards to: Mr. Ken Black, Shore Village Museum, 104 Limerock Street, Rockland, ME 04841.

TECHNICAL LITERATURE ON AID TO NAVIGATION

Mr. David H. Hamley, P.O. Box 600, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 is seeking technical information on any type of aid to navigation. Please write to the above address or call him at (412) 929-3255 for further information.

BOOKS • PICTURES • ANYTHING

The USLHS is requesting any unwanted books, pictures or literature on lighthouses and lightships. We are assembling a research library. Send donations (or information on items available for sale) to USLHS, 130 St. Elmo Way, San Francisco, CA 94127 or call (415) 585-1303.

LIGHTSHIPS OF CAPE COD

Lightships of Cape Cod by Frederic L. Thompson, Congress Square Press, P.O. Box 4060, Portland, Maine 04101, 1983. 112 pages, illustrated with black-and-white photographs and drawings, bibliography. Softbound. $10.95.

(Available at above address plus $1.00 shipping and handling.)

This is, to the best of my knowledge, the only book in print exclusively devoted to lightships, and long overdue. The book covers lightships that occupied stations with such colorful names as “Hen and Chickens” and “Hedge Fence” that guarded the maze of shifting sandbars known as Nantucket Shoals. Thompson’s book provides an entertaining and enjoyable history of an important part of American maritime history.

Thompson gives vivid accounts of the hazardous lives of the crews and the disasters that befell some of the lightships. Told are the loss of seven crewmen when the liner OLYMPIC cut NANTUCKET in two, the threats of marauding U-boats, and the perdition of POLLOCK RIP, dubbed “the happy wanderer.” Over 100 photographs, drawings, and maps provide the reader with a visual
reference to lightship lore. Many of the photographs date to the turn of the century and several are very rare.

One cannot help but wonder why the author included the story of Minot's Ledge Light; a fascinating story but unrelated to the subject of the book. Additionally, it would have been helpful to extend the area of the map in the front matter to show Brenton Reef and Nantucket stations.

Overall a very well executed book that acquaints the reader with the numerous lightship stations of the Cape Cod area. A must for the collector of things lighthouse and lightship, this book is a very important piece in the aids to navigation history puzzle of the United States.

Don Rutherford is a professional writer and an editor at Sunset Books. He has had numerous stories about lighthouses published in leading nautical magazines. Don is also a member of the Board of Directors of the USLHS.

**Reef Lights by Love Dean**

In our last issue we reviewed Love Dean's book *Reef Lights*, about the sea swept reef lights of the Florida Keys.

Unfortunately we failed to provide information about ordering the book.

For those of you who wish to order the book may do so by writing to:

Historic Key West Preservation Board
500 Whitehead Street
Key West, Florida 33040
Phone (305) 294-7511

Cost of the book is $9.95 plus $1 postage and handling.

**CALIFORNIA LIGHTHOUSES**

by sandywood, pen and ink artist

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