

side. Thus began "red, right, return." Naish is generous with similar bits of information and this makes for entertaining and informative reading.

The author goes on to discuss the history of beacons, fire towers, buoys, lightships and lighthouses providing much useful and often little known knowledge about these aids to navigation.

Other chapters detail the efforts in recent times to obtain international uniformity, and the activities of the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). Of particular interest to lighthouse preservationists are the chapters on automation and the future of seamarks (The author concludes that "we are not likely to abandon them").

Mr. Naish is a retired physician with a life-long love affair with the sea. Even five years of wartime service in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve did not lessen the love. He continues to sail the waters of northwest Scotland, Brittany, the North Sea, and the Baltic. Visits to outlying lighthouses in his youth kindled an interest in seamarks which he has combined with his other lifelong interest, history, in writing this book.

Seamarks is a valuable library addition recommended for anyone interested in lighthouses and other navigational aids.



SEAMARKS: Their History and Development by John Naish

Stanford Maritime Limited
London, England. 1985
Hard cover, 192 pages, 8" x 10"
20 maps, 40 drawings, 44 photos

Seamarks is a history of aids to navigation from the earliest times down to the present and with a look at the future. It is a comprehensive study of all types of seamarks and well illustrated with photographs and old charts and drawings.

Because this is a historical study, the reader will not find the usual tales of bravery and disaster associated with many popular books on the subject. Even so, Mr. Naish's style makes for easy reading of a book crammed with historical facts. Though some of his conclusions about the earliest seamarks may seem speculative, they're extrapolated in a logical fashion from known information.

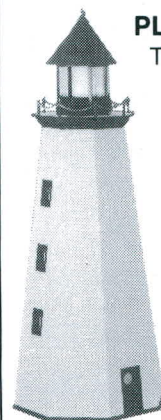
After a review of lighthouses in the ancient world, the author discusses the work of the Hanseatic league in Europe to organize seamarks. Many of these consisted of a birch branch, or besom, tied to the top of a pole beacon. At some date, the besoms on beacons on one side of the channel were fastened with the points down to differentiate the beacons from those on the other



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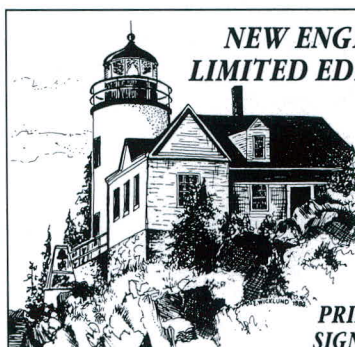


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