

From Dusk Till Dawn A History of Australian Lighthouses

Published by the Australian Department
of Transport & Communications—1988

An absolutely gorgeous coffee table book of lighthouses 'down under.' The Australian government has put together a first-rate publication the likes of which has never been published by our Government Printing Office. The book is loaded with every aspect of Australia's lighthouses and tells the story in a lively and, presumably, fact filled manner. After the Acknowledgement, Preface and Introduction sections, replete with the usual shots of the Pharos and Eddystone, this book gets down to business, and what a business it is.

The tome is divided into three main Parts, and they in turn, into Chapters. Part I, *Colonial Lights*, details such subjects as "Early Hazards" (Chapter 1), "Tragedy and Hope" (Chapter 4), "The Lesser Lights" (Chapter 7) and order out of chaos with "Toward a National Scheme" (Chapter 8)

Part II, *The Commonwealth Lighthouse Service*, involves six chapters to outline the beginnings and advancements through automation. It also explains various navigation aids, ships and technology employed.

Part III, *The Keepers*, gets down to nitty-gritty of the personal side of the Australian lighthouses, many in spectacular but remote settings. The pathos,

tragedy, hardships and bravery are nicely related. Each part ends with a short section called "Notes" that is bibliography for that section. A conclusion and comprehensive bibliography finish off this excellent book like the cherry on an ice cream sundae.

Of assistance to us keepers who are not familiar with the geography of the 'down under' continent is a map of Australia at the beginning with all the lighthouses marked by number. The book is absolutely crammed with breathtaking color photographs as well as interesting historical photographs and drawings. Even the papers are beautifully reproduced architectural drawings of two lighthouses. I cannot praise this book too highly; apparently is very well researched, crammed with fantastic photographs, it is delightful and most interesting to read...every thing you always wanted to know about another country's lighthouses and a MUST addition for your Library.

Hard cover (with a great dust jacket), 9½" by 12½", 264 pages (wonderful stock), 94 color photographs, 68 black and white photographs and 41 drawings and woodcuts. This book is available exclusively (for the next 6 months) through the Keeper's Library at \$39.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. An outstanding Christmas gift for that special lighthouse lover in your life, too big for the stocking but a nice gift for under the tree.

Kilauea Point Lighthouse The Landfall Beacon on the Orient Run

By Ross R. Aikin

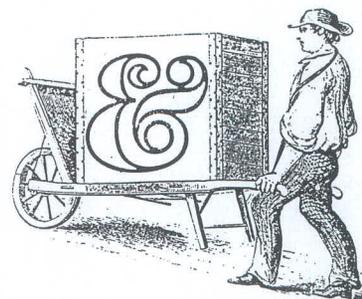
1988, 114 pages

All too little has been written about our Hawaiian lighthouses and Keeper Ross Aikin has made a nice start to correcting that discrepancy with his delightful book about one on the island of Kauai named Kilauea (pronounced Kill-a-waya) that also just happens to be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

He first acquaints the reader with a short overview of the history of the islands; the geology and early Hawaiians. Then, with the arrival of Americans and

the increased shipping trade, lighthouses became necessary—necessary to replace those few crude beacons the territory had established. Ross Aikin details the construction of the Kilauea lighthouse and chronicles its history. It is a well researched and nicely written book and certainly gives the "flavor of the bean (Kukui)" of Hawaiian lighthouses. The essential theme of the story is contained in a direct quotation of the keeper's parting instruction to his wife "Stand by the kukui (light) and keep it burning." Soft bound, 114 pages, 6" x 9", 53 black and white photos or drawings and a glossary explaining the Hawaiian words to you 'haoles.'

The book is available from the Keeper's Library at a bargain price of \$6.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.



Canadian Keepers on the Way Out

A Canadian Coast Guard study indicates that many of the 41 manned lighthouses on the west coast of Canada could be automated. The study recommended 10 for immediate automation and removal of personnel. Another seven are slated to have only part-time watchmen with eventual conversion to automated operation. Ten more should be scheduled for eventual automation when equipment is available and the remaining eleven manned for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Albert Ogden, health and safety director for the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, said: "There is absolutely no justification for unmanning. Lighthouse keepers help with search and rescue operations. We can cite cases where they have fished people from the water." However, a consultant for the