LIGHTSHIP

by Archie Binns
review by Bill Morrison

Avast there, me hearties! This new binding of the 1934 printing of "Lightship" — a real sea-faring book, is now for sale in the Keeper's Library. Over the years it received glowing reviews from the NY Times, Saturday Review, Esquire and other magazines.

The stories are presented as a string of vignettes, weaving about from the inner lives of the nine men who crew the lightship into events they shared at sea and their adventures on shore. As a long-time sailor, one who experienced a six-year time of liveaboard sailing, this reviewer found the setting, events and language of the book's characters to accurately tell what it was like to live a seaman's life during the 1920's and '30's. This brawling tale encompasses sailors, seamanship and shipwrecks; shore leave, sinning and being shanghaied — written the way books were, almost sixty years ago, when sex was romance and the worst word one could read was "S-O-B."

This is a great book to relax with during quiet evenings or on a vacation. You can really "sink your teeth into it" and be caught up and away with these sailors: their adventures, laughter and sometimes, their tears. While any literate, sea-loving person over sixteen would find the book interesting, it will be particularly enjoyed by any "old salts" who can relate to references of the period, and who may have been afloat long enough to appreciate the book as a metaphor for life.

Hard cover, 9" x 6", 345 pages. $14.95 + S&H.