



BANSEMER'S BOOK OF FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSES

By Roger Bansemer
Pineapple Press

We've stated in the past that lighthouse books are flying off the press these days, along with videos. A great many of them rehash the same old stuff and are laced with inaccuracies, ubiquitous ghost stories and often uninteresting photos. However, we recently received a review copy of one of the most beautiful lighthouse books we have ever seen, a breath of fresh air.

Bansemer's Book of Florida Lighthouses is a colorful coffee table book filled with absolutely gorgeous water colors of all Florida lighthouses. The paintings accurately portray the various light stations as well as impart a sense of the surroundings of each lighthouse. The flora and fauna are vividly depicted; one can feel the warmth of the climate, the coolness of the ocean in his paintings.

Accompanying the full color water colors are small black and white sketches of some of the lighthouses (showing a different aspect than the primary painting), as well as sketches of lighthouse elements, vessels, and boat yard characters.

The book is more than just a beautiful album of lighthouse paintings. It contains snippets of history about each light station; dates, information important to a particular station, recent developments regarding the lighthouse and the status of the light station today. An added bonus are very accurate

chartlets showing where each lighthouse is located and how to reach it.

The text is set with very readable type, and some sketches are also accompanied with comments by the artist in script, as if he just thought of something to add to this handsome album.

The overall feeling of this charming book is one of well being. It's a lovely album that transports the reader to the beautiful Florida coast. The paintings are the most accurate portrayals of lighthouses we have seen, almost photographic, yet soft and warm. There is a personal touch to this volume not found in any other book we've seen on the subject. If you have skimmed through any of the large format books offered just before Christmas on such subjects as fairies, butterflies or gnomes, you'll have an idea of the feel of this work.

Hands down, it is the most beautiful book we have ever seen on the subject of lighthouses: accurate paintings, whimsical and accurate sketches, factual text, warm personal comments, and chartlets on lighthouse locations. It is a visual feast. To occasionally slip into the lighthouse life of yesteryear, buy this book; we promise you will not be disappointed. We feel confident that *Bansemer's Book of Florida Lighthouses* is headed for a book award.

Hard cover, 9 by 12, 144 pages, numerous color and black and white paintings and drawings. Available through the Keeper's Locker for \$29.95 plus shipping and handling.

BIG TIME OOOOPS

The gremlins were out in force when we constructed the *Winter Log*.

We placed the Eastern Point (Maurice River) Lighthouse in NY, when, of course, it's in NJ.

We misspelled the name of Chesapeake Chapter President Henry Gonzalez by substituting the "z" at the end of his name with an "s." Sorry, Henry.

But the biggest goof was a complete botching of Thomas Tag's fine article on the Cunningham Creek Lighthouse.

After the article was scanned into the computer it was spell checked, but not "person checked." The type was sent back to us with material for the *Fall Log*, but because there wasn't room in the *Fall Log* we held it for the winter issue and no one proofread the computer spell checked type against the original manuscript. Due to faulty scanning there were numerous misspelled words and other errors of capitalization, lack of spaces, etc.

And for some strange reason we called the Cunningham Creek Lighthouse "Clinton Creek" on the cover and "Port Clinton" in a caption...just too much Clinton in the news, we think.

We sincerely apologize to the author and our readers for these mistakes and will be much more vigilant with editing and proofreading in the future.

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