D. Alan Stevenson was the fifth generation of the Scottish Stevenson clan of lighthouse engineers, beginning with Thomas Smith. That family included author Robert Louis Stevenson, the “black sheep” of the family, who would rather write prose than design lighthouses.

It is said the reason D. Alan chose the ending date of his initial work, was that after 1820 steam vessels came into being and greatly facilitated the construction of off-shore lighthouses – compared to delivering supplies with sail vessels. Personally, I would have selected 1822 and the advent of the Fresnel lens as a break point in the development of lighthouses. Word has it that Stevenson was about to publish a sequel taking lighthouses history from 1820 to around 1970 when he died. A rumor also has it that his family was considering publishing the sequel.

A bargain at $29.95 plus shipping from Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts (800) 320-2130.

Lighthouse Point – Illuminating Santa Cruz

By Frank Perry.

This is a much-expanded revision of Frank Perry’s first lighthouse book on the Santa Cruz Lighthouse on California’s central coast. Frank is a tireless and meticulous researcher of lighthouses and lightships. In addition to writing several well-researched books on the subject, Frank designs interpretive exhibits for various California lighthouses. He produced four interpretive panels for our lighthouse – RELIEF and has crafted lighthouse displays for Point Sur and Point Pinos Lighthouses. He also worked with the staff at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in crafting an exhibit on the Farallon Island Light Station.

In addition to beefing up his earlier work on the history of the Santa Cruz Lighthouse (1870 – 1948) and its faux replacement, he delves into the history of the surrounding park, history of the erosion and surfing in the area. The extensive bibliography speaks to the thoroughness of his research and quality of this book. Soft cover, 6 by 9 inches, 186 pages, numerous black and white photos and maps. $12.95. Order through your local bookstore or contact the publisher: Otter B. Books, 1891 16th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 or call: (831) 476-5334.

Lighthouses of Southern New England – Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut – A Pictorial Guide

By Courtney Thompson.

Following the format of her earlier books, Courtney Thompson has incorporated some material from her Massachusetts lighthouse book with new photos and material about lighthouses in Rhode Island and Connecticut. As in the past, her excellent photos are beautiful and location maps by Society artist Rusty Nelson are illuminating. The photos of each lighthouse are accompanied with a short historical discussion as well as written directions to reach the lighthouses. Thus, it is a valuable guide for those on the lighthouse trail.
If a light station is under the care of an organization, their contact information is included. Courtney has also compiled a detailed listing of the characteristics of each light station. A very well constructed book and guide. Soft cover, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, color photos and black and white maps, 190 pages. $24.95. For ordering information call Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts at (800) 720-4751.

**Lighthouses**

**Introduction by Mike Vogel**

It's big, it's beautiful, it's all color! Sterling Publishing has produced a sumptuously beautiful coffee table book on lighthouses of the world. The majority are photos of American lighthouses with a smattering of those of other countries.

After a very well written introduction by Mike Vogel, President of the Buffalo Lighthouse Association, the text amounts to poems or appropriate excerpts from literature accompanying each full page photograph.

Most of the photographs are breathtaking and span the gamut from sunrise to sunset. A few provide interior glimpses of towers: the lantern room, lenses or a spiral staircase.

If you want an elegant coffee table book to wistfully leaf through and inspire you to hit the "lighthouse trail," this is the perfect publication of inspiration.

Hard cover, 11" by 14", 176 full color pages. Available at $39.95 plus shipping and handling from the Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts, PO. Box 2382, Florence, OR 97439, phone (800) 320-2130.

**The Lighthouse At Rockland Breakwater**

By Ted Panayotoff & Courtney Thompson

The Friends of the Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse have produced a nice little book as a fundraiser for their organization.

The book provides an overview of the commerce of the Rockland Harbor area in the 19th century and the reason that lead to the construction of the one-mile long breakwater. As the breakwater progressed a minor aid to navigation was placed on the extreme end, and moved as the breakwater grew. Finally, when finished, the Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse was constructed. The finished product was a unique design and incorporated the dwelling, tower and fog signal building.

There is a set of plans of the structure and a discussion of the elements that make up the station. Incorporated into the booklet is a fictional tale written by one of the assistant keepers of the station.

Some of the Lighthouse Service keepers as well as Coast Guard keepers are mentioned. Plans for the future of the station are stated and the appendices provide a nice finishing touch—listing all the keepers, and providing a chronological history of the station. All in all, a nice little booklet. Soft cover, 6 by 9 inches, 64 pages with numerous drawings and photos and only $9.95. To purchase, contact: The Friends of Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse, PO. Box 741, Rockland, ME 04841, or see their website at: www.rocklandlighthouse.com.