

excellent, remarkably comprehensive book. But it undoubtedly will stand as the definitive work on the subject.

John A. Tilley
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The New Carving and Ornamentation for Ship Models

By Bill Short

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario: Bill Short, 2009

CD – pdf format

Extensive photographs and diagrams, bibliography.

Distributed worldwide by the author

Carved ornamentation has adorned ships to varying degrees for as long as there have been ships and boats. From early in the seventeenth century for at least a hundred years there was a “golden age” of ship decoration. Thereafter, although carved ornamentation diminished, it still figured prominently, especially at the bow and stern, and survived into the late nineteenth century, even aboard the new steel warships of the era.

Reproducing this elaborate carved decoration often shows up as an insurmountable obstacle to beginning a project to scratchbuild a particular prototype, let alone carrying it through to completion. There are plenty of books on carving in general, a small number even devoted specifically to the maritime genre, but modelers have a harder time finding help. This is not to diminish the usefulness of the discussions and expositions of carving for models that have appeared within the covers of books and magazines devoted to the general subject of ship modeling, but an individual looking for help exclusively on this specific topic will not find much.

Mr. Short's new CD certainly goes a long way to filling this need. From the outset, though, potential purchasers need to be aware that he has a very specific perspective, that of a modeler whose primary approach is to use various types of powered rotary tools to accomplish his goals. He lists a whole range of such tools, from the inexpensive hand-held Dremel to high-end equipment intended for dentistry. Much of the nitty-gritty of his CD presentation depends on access to such rotary cutting tools for its success.

After examining the variety of tools suitable for miniature carving, Mr. Short leads the carver through the process step-by-step, all the time illustrating his points with clear photographs and sketches. Once he has covered the basics, he moves on to address specialized techniques for more elaborate shapes or unusual situations. The tone is friendly and authoritative—the carver feels both guided and supported in venturing into what may be uncharted territory.

Nevertheless, even if a modeler does not anticipate using powered tools for carving projects, there is a mass of extremely valuable material in Mr. Short's presentation. The extended chapter on drawing and visualization is a masterpiece of succinct exposition of the skills (and the exercises a modeler can use to develop them) that are the foundation for success in any miniature carving project, and have universal applicability. The sections

on wood selection and finishing practices also are very valuable to any miniature carver whether using power tools or not.

I have indulged in marine carving for many years now. This presentation encourages me to try some new techniques, and I highly recommend it.

Mark Myers
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From Lumber Hookers to the Hooligan Fleet: A Treasury of Chicago Maritime History

Edited by the Chicago Maritime Society

6" x 9", softcover, xvi + 378 pages

Illustrations, maps, index

ISBN: 9781893121300

This book is a group project by members of the Chicago Maritime Society to put together an anthology of stories about the maritime history of Chicago. Many Society members were involved in the gathering and editing of the materials from various sources into a very interesting collection that chronicles Chicago's maritime history.

One might imagine that numerous authors and four editors would produce a book that varies in its writing from chapter to chapter and this is true for this book but every chapter is very readable.

The book is divided into six parts. Each part contains either five or six articles with each article preceded by a short introduction regarding the origin of the article if previously published some historical background relevant to the article and some very brief information on the author of the article. The collection includes materials written for the book and edited reprints of accounts of maritime events about Chicago maritime history.

Part I - Early Times, contains six chapters on the early development of the Chicago area brought about by the fur trade and the river links between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. The river links from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River were the key to the development of Chicago as the major port city on Lake Michigan. Without these links, Chicago would have taken second place to Milwaukee. These six chapters give a very good understanding of the importance of the rivers to the development of Chicago as well as an appreciation of the early settler and Indian life on and along the rivers.

Part II - Inland Navigation on the Canal, contains five chapters related to the Illinois and Michigan Canal and how the I & M Canal was the most significant contributor to the early growth of the Chicago area. With the opening of the I & M Canal Chicago was on its way from a small community to the largest city on the Great Lakes and the gateway to the west.

Part III - The six chapters of The Golden Age of Sail cover the period during the 1800's when Chicago grew to be the busiest port on the Great Lakes and for a time the world's busiest. Two chapters are excerpts from Theodore J. Karamaski's book *Schooner Passage* from 2000.

Part IV - Some Maritime Institutions contains