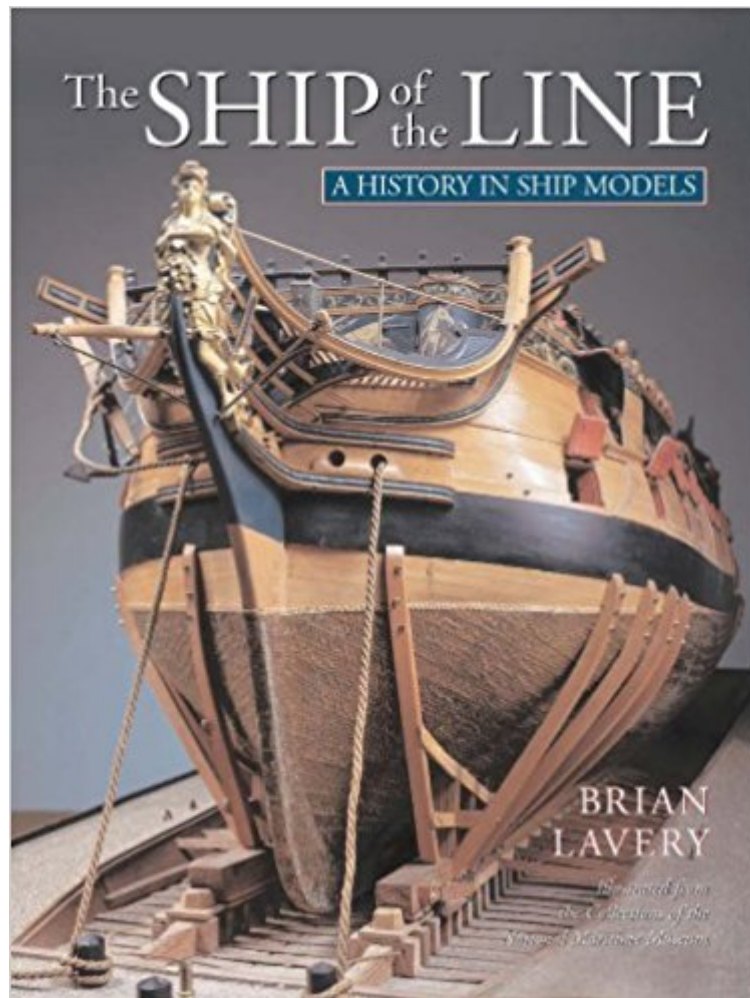




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The Ship Of The Line (A History In Ship Models)



Synopsis

The Ship of the Line takes the best models from the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to tell the story of the evolution of the ship of the line, known as the capital ship and epitome of British sea power during its heyday from 1650 to 1850. This period coincided with the golden age of ship modeling. Each volume depicts over one hundred models in full color photos, including many close-up and detail views. These photos are captioned in depth, but many are also annotated to focus attention on interesting or unusual features. The book weaves the pictures into an authoritative text, producing a unique form of technical history. Ship modelers and those with an interest in the development of ship design during the sailing era will be attracted to the in-depth analysis of this beautifully presented book.

Book Information

Series: A History in Ship Models

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Naval Institute Press (October 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1591141877

ISBN-13: 978-1591141877

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.6 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #620,291 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Ships #261 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts &

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Customer Reviews

Brian Lavery is the guest curator of the exhibition Victory 250 at Chatham Historic Dockyard. He has written more than thirty books on maritime history including the highly successful Nelson's Navy and Empire of the Seas.

Unbelievable pictures and very informative print to accompany them. Would have liked a bit more photos of details of the ships close up pictures of deck furniture and rigging patterns.

Mr Lavery's books are always informative, fascinating and entertaining for anyone interested in Men-o-war. This one is no exception. For those of us impassioned by Navy Board models this opportunity to view them in color is exciting. Well, at least that is how I feel about it. Having a book full of color pictures to peruse by the fireplace beats having to hunt all over the internet any day. For model makers such as I this volume further wets the creative appetite and provides inspiration to attempt to emulate those 18th Century artists skills. Mr. Lavery, hat's off to you!

Excellent book. One of my top three on the subject, and I have read every one I could find for 55 years. That is a lot of books on model sailing ship models, believe me.

An excellent companion volume to The Sailing Frigate and the Jack Aubrey spinoffs.

A well written narrative on the history of the naval construction in the age of sail illustrated by ship models from the period.

Overall this book was disappointing. At only 120 pages, it's too short to provide adequate detail on either the evolution of the ship of the line, or of the techniques of ship modeling. While beautifully illustrated, at 8" by 10" it's in no respect a coffee table art book. Being neither fish nor fowl, it doesn't really succeed.

Excellent book. A must for any sailing ship enthusiast.

For almost 200 hundred years the British and French navies dominated the world. As two of the world's leading industrial economies of the day, their wealth permitted them to produce fine ships with the dual purpose of protecting their own shores and seeking out new lands as part of their respective imperialist dreams and this book is the story of those navies. Author Jonathan R. Dull is the retired senior editor of the series "The Papers of Benjamin Franklin" whose previous works include the award-winning "The French Navy and American Independence; A Study in Arms and Diplomacy, 1774-1787" and "The French Navy and the Seven Years War." It was because those previous works both involved the French Navy (whereas this particular book includes the French and British navies) I was concerned that Mr Dull may have come to this work with a bias towards the French (be that bias for or against!) but was delighted to learn this was not so. With the emphasis always remaining on the effect of global events on the navies in question, the chapters commence

with the origins of the "Ship of the Line" (so called because these fleets sailed in single file or, in a straight line - one behind the other). We then learn about Louis XIV and his wars, the age of peace, the outcome of the seven years war, the war of American Independence, French Revolution, Napoleonic wars and finally, supremacy in the age of sail. Then, as now, warships were vastly expensive and, in this first-ever joint history of both navies, we find a completely impartial view of the various shipbuilding programmes, campaigns, strategies, battles and even the diplomacy of the day. The author also draws the interesting conclusion that the greatest tragedy for both nations was the Franco-British wars which stood to destroy both their common security and the economic prosperity both had enjoyed during their brief period as Allies! There are two maps (Europe and the Caribbean) and seven battle diagrams. I have to add that I found the latter to be so simple as to be quite excellent with my favourite - the Battle of Aboukir Bay (sometimes called the Battle of the Nile), reproduced exactly as I have described that scene so many times. Whilst the lack of pictures (there are none at all) does not detract from the overall impact of this important work, some images of either important ships or portraits of the leading protagonists would have improved the book. Altogether, however, a first rate work. NM

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