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## Recent Books

Frank Uhlig Jr.

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## Recent Books

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Gilkerson, William. *Boarders Away with Steel: Edged Weapons and Polearms.*

Lincoln, R.I.: Andrew Mobraay, 1991. 160pp. (No price given)

The preface of this reference work observes that “as artist, author, student, historian and collector, it is doubtful that a more capable or talented researcher could have undertaken this project” than William Gilkerson of Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. He is the author of several maritime books, and his remarkably vigorous nautical paintings have been exhibited in such places as the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. This work, which focuses on edged weapons used in American and European navies from about 1776 to 1815, is based on exhaustive research in private and public collections and archives. It is divided into sections on boarding axes, boarding pikes, cutlasses, officers’ swords and dirks, and miscellaneous tools of “random mayhem.” (New to many will be a description of the American boarding helmet.) As might be expected, the book is profusely illustrated, with photographs, plates, and especially line drawings. A supplementary work on firearms and combustibles, *Boarders Away with Fire*, is forthcoming. Provided with a lengthy exposition on war at sea, and notes, bibliography, and index.

Albrecht, Gerhard, compiler. *Weyers Flottentaschenbuch Warships of the World 1992/93.* Bonn and Baltimore: The Nautical and Aviation Pub. Co. of America, 1992. 874pp. \$99.95

When we want to find details of some ship or group of ships, most of us go to one of those giant books, *Jane’s Fighting Ships*, *Combat Fleets of the World*, or *The Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet*. However, *Weyer’s* covers essentially the same material that *Jane’s* and *Combat Fleets* do, but on pages about the same size as a good-quality paperback. Moreover, it does this, where necessary, in two languages, German and English. It succeeds through massive and intelligent compression of information, through tables, lists, and easily grasped symbols, through recent photographs and carefully sketched side elevations. In addition, the last editor of the mourned *Marine Rundschau International* opens the work with a thorough discussion (in both languages) of recent developments in the world’s navies. *Weyer’s* has been published since 1900. This edition is, alas, fatter than any of its predecessors, but good value for the money.

## Naval War College Historical Monograph Series

In 1975, the Historical Monograph program was established for book-length monographs that are concerned with the history of naval warfare and are based wholly or in part on source materials in the Naval Historical Collection of the Naval War College. The series is administered by a board comprising the Dean of Naval Warfare Studies, the editor of the Naval War College Press, the Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History, and the head of the Library's Naval Historical Collection Division.

- #1 Hayes, John D. and Hattendorf, John B., eds. *The Writings of Stephen B. Luce*, 1975. [Currently out of print]
- #2 Symonds, Craig, ed. *Charleston Blockade: The Journals of John B. Marchand, U.S. Navy 1861-1862*, 1976. [Note 1, \$7.50]
- #3 Spector, Ronald. *Professors of War: The Naval War College and the Development of the Naval Profession*, 1977. [Currently out of print]
- #4 Vlahos, Michael. *The Blue Sword: The Naval War College and the American Mission, 1919-1941*, 1980. [Notes 1 and 2, \$6; GPO stock no. 008-047-00325-1]
- #5 Hattendorf, John B., ed. *On His Majesty's Service: Observations of the British Home Fleet from the Diary, Reports, and Letters of Joseph H. Wellings, Assistant U.S. Naval Attaché, London, 1940-1941*, 1983. [Note 1, \$6]
- #6 Monsarrat, John. *Angel on the Yardarm: The Beginnings of Fleet Radar Defense and the Kamikaze Threat*, 1985. [Note 1, \$4.25]
- #7 Hattendorf, John B. and Hattendorf, Lynn C., comps. *A Bibliography of the Works of Alfred Thayer Mahan*, 1986. [Note 1, \$5]
- #8 Sokolsky, Joel. *The Fraternity of the Blue Uniform: Admiral Richard G. Colbert, U.S. Navy and Allied Naval Cooperation*, 1991. [Note 1, \$5]
- #9 Hattendorf, John B., ed. *The Influence of History on Mahan*, 1991. [Note 1, \$8]

### Notes

- [1] Available from the Naval War College Foundation, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, RI 02841-1207. Please mail checks payable to the Naval War College Foundation (include \$2.50 for postage/handling for a single book and \$1.00 per book thereafter).
- [2] Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.