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Dictionary of Admirals of the U.S. Navy, 1862-1900, Vol. I

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(Paperback Vintage Books Edition, 1986). Each volume \$21.95
 Shelby Foote has brought to life the major and the minor figures on both sides of this conflict. The reader shares in the triumph of George Thomas as he prevented the destruction of the Union Army at Chickamauga, and the frustration of the Confederate general, Richard Taylor (Zachary Taylor's son), when his dream of victory was snatched from him by the irresolution of his superior at Red River, and the curious trajectory of George McClellan, who emerges as simultaneously a villain and a hero.

Neither the Union nor the Confederates had a corner on the supply of vanity, ambition, or lapses of judgment. Shelby Foote expertly documents how costly this was; this is an invaluable aid to understanding the abilities and the shortcomings of the leadership on both sides, and it reveals their common characteristics.

The individual interested in naval matters should find much new, relevant, and informative material in Shelby Foote's treatment of the Confederate and Union navies. Both sides used their navies as "strategic forces" inasmuch as the campaigns and forays always had the governing "Grand Strategy" in view. The activities of both navies provide illustrations of the power of the "fleet in being" articulated by Alfred Thayer Mahan. In particular, the important role played by the ironclads on the Mississippi demonstrate that concept.

The United States Navy is justly proud of its reputation as a "blue water

navy" which it gained in the Spanish-American War and the First and Second World Wars, and burnished in the many naval aspects of the Cold War. The Civil War reminds us of the U.S. Navy's equally proud tradition as a "brown water navy." The visits Foote provides to Port Royal, Hampton Roads, Vicksburg, and along the Mississippi allow one to see the naval "battlefields." It is a good reminder that the opposing force on the ground was not the only enemy. The author's vignettes of the "brown water" campaigns has captured something of the ingenuity, determination, bravery, resourcefulness, and horror of this forerunner to riverine warfare as experienced later in Vietnam.

Combined, there are over 53,000 books, monographs, reports, songs, and published letters on the Civil War. It is tremendously difficult to discern from all this a true definition of what really happened. Shelby Foote, through meticulous research combined with great narrative skill, has managed to create an epic of tremendous influence.

ALBERT M. BOTTOMS
 Charlottesville, Virginia

Cogar, William B., comp. *Dictionary of Admirals of the U.S. Navy, 1862-1900*, Volume I. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1989. 217pp. \$36.95

A most welcome reference series, this first volume establishes an authoritative list of biographical data that was

previously found only in hard-to-find sources.

William Cogar has provided brief but lucid descriptions of the complex subject of officer ranks, promotions, and staff officer categories in the United States Navy during the last half of the nineteenth century. In addition, a short outline has been provided that describes the navy's administration and management; there is also a list of bureau chiefs from 1842 to the incumbents in the year 1900.

The main text is an alphabetical listing of the 211 admirals who received their flags in this thirty-eight year period. Each entry contains the officer's family background and education, a list of promotions with dates of rank, and a list of duty assignments that includes a note on the highlights of his career. This is followed by a list of published writings by the officer, with the locations of the surviving manuscript collections as well as key biographical studies that have been done. Each entry averages about one page in length and, with a few exceptions, includes a portrait of the officer.

This is a fascinating compilation of data that not only launches a fine new series but makes available information for further study regarding backgrounds, promotion patterns, and educational achievements of the highest level in the U.S. naval officer corps. It is interesting to find that in the late nineteenth century there were admirals educated at colleges and universities such as Dartmouth,

Kenyon, Williams, Union, Harvard, and Princeton.

Because Farragut was appointed as the first admiral in the United States Navy in 1862, one would expect all those following to be close to his age or younger. The reader may be surprised to find on these pages the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Charles Stewart, born in 1778 and a hero of the War of 1812, who had joined the navy three years before Farragut was born and was the grandfather of (namesake of the Irish nationalist) Charles Stewart Parnell. Stewart retired in 1861 and was promoted to rear admiral on the retired list in 1862, one day after Farragut. By act of Congress the United States Navy's senior flag officer since 1859, Stewart served seventy-one years.

This fine series lacks only a seniority list and a general index; these one hopes may be included in a future final volume.

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Watts, Anthony J., ed. *Jane's Underwater Warfare Systems* (Third Edition). Alexandria, Va.: Jane's Information Group, 1991. 318pp. \$210

A new *Jane's* is always worth a good look, not only for the detailed cataloging of numbers and precise fact but also for the editor's commentary on the business at hand. So it is with the third edition of *Jane's Underwater Warfare Systems*.