

1992

## The Crone Library: Books on the Art of Navigation

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the contrary, it has the immediacy of a bull session with a good friend in the wardroom. Sidebars and anecdotes interspersed throughout the book give a unique flavor to this comprehensive, highly readable guide to one of the most important aspects of the naval profession. This book should be in every wardroom and ready room in the fleet. Every reporting officer should receive a copy. It is indispensable.

WILLIAM F. HICKMAN  
Captain, U.S. Navy

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Peters, Hubert J.M.W., comp. *The Crone Library: Books on the Art of Navigation*. Nieuwkoop, Netherlands: De Graaf Publishers BV, 1989. 805pp. \$96

This descriptive bibliography was published for the Netherlands Scheepvaart Museum in Amsterdam and is a major contribution to maritime scholarship. It is not merely a listing of the museum's collections of navigation books but a collection of scholarly treatises, and is a tool of remarkable scholarly value.

There are five parts to the book. The first pays homage to the collector, Dr. Ernest Crone (1891-1975), the former chairman of the board of the Sheepvaart Museum, in a biographical sketch explaining his interest and experience in navigation and listing the 109 items that he published. This is followed by a "Survey of the History of the Art of Navigation in the Netherlands," by Professor C. Koeman. It is a useful sixteen-page

overview of the subject, which places Dutch contributions to navigation within the context of broader elements.

Koeman's essay is followed by W.F.J. Morzer Bruyns's descriptive list of the "Crone Collection of Nautical Instruments." These instruments were a direct complement to the books which Crone acquired, linking the bibliographic aspects of the study with the real practice of navigation in history. This description is divided into several categories: instruments for measuring the altitude of a celestial body above the horizon; time measurement; compasses; instruments for measuring the speed of a ship through the water; telescopes; and drawing and computing instruments.

These introductory parts lead to the main catalogue, which is a chronological listing of 1,223 items published between 1483 and 1971. The whole takes up 565 pages, with a complete technical description of each work. There is a thirty-one page explanation of the principles, and also instructions for using the list explaining the various entries, references, and abbreviations.

The main list is followed by seven indices, including one each for authors, printers, and book sellers, and place names and their imprint variants, with reference maps by period showing the place of publication with numbers of editions. The final fifty-pages cap the volume with a selection of illustrations, mainly title pages but also bindings and maps and illustrations within a book.

This is a magnificent piece of scholarship. It is a type of bibliography that is rarely seen and is done to an impeccable standard. *The Crone Library* is a volume which every major maritime library and serious student of the history of navigation should possess. It is not only a guide to the history

of Dutch contributions to the art of navigation and to the fine collection in Amsterdam, but it also provides a standard and a reference for the entire history of maritime publishing in Europe.

JOHN B. HATTENDORF  
Naval War College

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### WORLD WAR II—A 50-YEAR PERSPECTIVE

Siena College is sponsoring its eighth annual *multidisciplinary* conference, June 3-June 4, 1993, on the 50th anniversary of World War II. The focus for 1993 will be 1943—though papers dealing with broad issues of earlier years will be welcomed. Topics welcome include: Fascism and Naziism; Stalingrad, New Guinea, the Air War, North Africa, Sicily and Italy, the North Atlantic; Literature; Art; Film; Diplomacy; Political and Military History; Popular Culture, Minority Affairs, and Women's and Jewish Studies dealing with the era. Asian, African, Latin American, and Near Eastern topics of relevance are solicited. Obviously, collaboration and collaborationist regimes, the events on the home front, religion, conscription, and dissent will also be of significance.

Replies and inquiries to: Professor Thomas O. Kelly II, Department of History, Siena College, 515 Loudon Rd., Loudonville, New York, 12211-1462.

Deadline for submissions: December 1, 1992