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## A Bibliography of American Naval History

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naval history. We look forward to future studies that maintain the same high standards of scholarship.

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Coletta, Paolo E., comp. *A Bibliography of American Naval History*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1981. 453pp.

The ancient Greek *bibliographos* was a copyist of manuscripts. In modern times, the anglicized form of the word has expanded to cover so many specific functions that a precise definition of a bibliography has become nearly impossible. Yet, a bibliographer must do something more than just list books randomly. He must build upon a concrete and thorough understanding of his field and develop from it a structure that will allow him appropriate criteria for the selection and description of books and articles.

Paolo Coletta has compiled a bibliography of American naval history, a subject area that can greatly benefit from such work. Coletta describes his effort as a "working bibliography" that "encompasses the published writings that teaching experience shows are relevant and should be among the holdings of the average university library." One boggles at the concept of the "average university" and its library collections. Evidently, the compiler intends the book to be used for undergraduate survey courses. However, the study of naval history has rarely been a major interest in any American university. A bibliography of some 4,800 items seems inappropriate for a basic, general collection.

Moreover, Professor Coletta states that "American naval history should not be studied in a vacuum." It should be seen in relation to "diplomatic, maritime, Marine Corps, military, aviation, geographical, political, economic, social, intellectual, scientific, technological,

organizational, administrative, and personal history." Coletta adds books to his list that he believes are relevant on this basis.

The bibliography is divided into 23 sections which, for the most part, follow the chronological periods of naval history from the 18th century to the present. The final sections deal with "The Challenge of the Soviet Navy" and "Sea Power for the 1980's." Each section is divided into subsections that list books, articles, documents, theses and dissertations as well as fiction. Each book entry includes the Library of Congress shelf number. The entries are rarely annotated so that it is difficult for a novice in the field to judge the value, or in some cases, even the subject of the item. The listing of journal articles and fiction makes a new contribution, but it is clear that the bibliography makes no attempt to be either complete in coverage or critical of the material listed. Naval history is a field that abounds with historical writing of poor quality; a bibliography that makes no discriminating judgment provides little in scholarly value. Students and scholars need more than just a booklist if they are to have the "invaluable aid to naval historical research" that the publisher claims on the paperback cover of this volume.

Many scholars will find that they would choose different books in some of these sections. Indeed, there seems no obvious criteria to indicate why certain books were omitted and others included. This is particularly true of the section entitled, "The European Heritage." In that section, for example, the work of Geoffrey Marcus and E.B. Powley is included, but the more important scholarship of John Ehrman is missing. The books by Richard Pares are listed, but not his articles. Nordhoff's fictional account of the mutiny on the *Bounty* is listed, but none of serious historical studies of the subject are included. Only Gerald Graham's *Empire of the North*

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*Atlantic* is included, none of his other books and articles. Michael Lewis' work is listed, but not Daniel Baugh's excellent work on naval administration. There is an article by Frederic Lane listed, but not his more important book on Venetian shipping. Moreover, no published documents are listed and few books and theses deal with continental naval history.

One could point to similar anomalies in every section of the bibliography. At the far end of the volume in the section on "Sea Power for the 1980's" one finds the most curious agglomeration. Evelyn Berckman's *Creators and Destroyers of the English Navy* is included without annotation, although it contains not a word that refers to any event after the year 1685. Gerald Graham's superb lectures on *The Politics of Naval Supremacy* are included, but they are an analysis of the 19th century.

In short, one must commend the publisher for sponsoring a good idea, but the quality of the scholarship in this bibliography is so deeply flawed that it cannot be recommended for use, except with the greatest caution. A university interested in building a collection in naval history would be better advised to use an updated version of the 800-item bibliography that the Naval History Division published nearly 10 years ago. The research scholar should continue to use his Neeser, Albion, Hardin Craig, Charles Schultz and Myron J. Smith.

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De Santis, Hugh *The Diplomacy of Silence: The American Foreign Service, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War, 1933-1947*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980. 270pp.

Hugh De Santis is a research analyst for regional political and security affairs of Western Europe in the State Department. This, his first book, is a recipient of the 1980 Stuart L. Bernath Award,

given annually by the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations in recognition of distinguished new scholarship in the field.

The work describes the professional world of 30 American Foreign Service officers in the years 1933-1947. De Santis has relied extensively upon both private papers of these diplomats and personal interviews to reconstruct the psychological, intellectual, and social dimensions of the milieu in which American Foreign Service officers worked. Almost incidentally, from this perspective, he has written about the Soviet Union and the cold war, two factors that only in retrospect came to dominate the lives of American diplomats in the mid-1940s. The approach he has taken, De Santis argues persuasively, is more likely to produce a better understanding of the environment in which policy decisions evolve; thus it is more conducive to an explanation of why American-Soviet relations took the course they did in the crucial years 1944-1947.

Most of the 30 individuals who are the focus of this study served either in Moscow or in European capitals in which Soviet policy and the activities of the Red army became a major and immediate concern as World War Two drew to a close. Some, like Charles E. Bohlen and George F. Kennan, were trained Soviet experts; most were not. The one characteristic they share in common was training as professional Foreign Service officers prior to 1939. What De Santis' research has shown is that, as Americans, these men tended to evaluate international events in highly moral and legalistic terms, discounting the European model of *realpolitik* as an outmoded, discredited method of diplomacy. As members of the Foreign Service, they were socialized into what was then still an exclusive organization generally restricted to white Anglo-Saxon protestant gentlemen. Despite the Rogers Act, passed in 1924 to