

## **Behind The Fiddle**



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### **Offshore Sailing: 200 Essential Passagemaking Tips**

by William Seifert

Available from Amazon \$24.84 softcover (3/2022)

Ever slap your head and wonder, "Why didn't I think of that?" Well, there's a good chance Bill Seifert has figured it out and the answer is in this book. But don't misunderstand - this book is not just clever, it's practical, and although the title says "offshore" don't be fooled. The advice here is for all of us, from day sailor to coastal cruiser to offshore explorer. These tips will not only make you a better, safer sailor, they will increase your enjoyment. For example, by following Bill's advice on spring lines and docking I have substantially reduced frustration and tension. And don't leave this book at home! There are 10 pages of recipes from one of the world's best offshore gastronomes.

Review excerpt by Lawrence Sterne, Greenwich, CT)

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### **Empires of the Sea: the siege of Malta, battle of Lepanto and the contest for the center of the world.**

by Roger Crowley

Available from Amazon \$19.99 hardcover used (3/2022)

The story of the struggle between the Islamic Ottoman Empire and Catholic Hapsburg Spain for control of the Mediterranean (with important consequences for the lands bordering the Mediterranean) as told by Crowley makes for compelling reading, filled with dazzling characters and astounding events. The Pope fleeing Rome in advance of an army of invading Turks was a real historical possibility, averted by a chain of circumstances perhaps much less likely than normally seems evident from this distance of time. Malta, a geographic key to the central Mediterranean withstood a massive Muslim attack and siege only by the narrowest of margins. And Lepanto, the last great battle of oared ships, could very easily have been lost by the Hapsburgs, and Islamic domination of Italy and the south of France and of Spain might well have followed, greatly altering the future course of events in Europe.

Crowl[e]y has done a superlative job of narrating this slice of history and making it wonderfully vivid.

Review excerpt by Bruce Tinqu (Amston, CT)

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### **The Life and Adventures of John Nicol, Mariner**

edited and with an introduction by Tim Flannery, first published 1822 and republished by The Text Publishing Company in 1997

The autobiography of John Nicol, a seaman who sailed on British ships from 1776 to 1801 which meant he was involved in the Revolutionary War, the resettlement of convicts to Australia, the China trade and the Napoleonic War. This is a rare tale of an ordinary seaman's life in his own words during a momentous period.

Available Amazon \$4.99 softcover (3/2022)

“This is the life of an ordinary seaman at the time of the beginning of scientific exploration. John Nicol a seaman on the voyages of discovery and later trade to Australia, the Americas and to Africa. He observed life of the captains, the ordinary men at sea and the people of the lands he visited. He went to sea at an early age was imprisoned, married and lived to 94 and died in England. The diaries are a remarkable work of an eyewitness to history. It is written and edited in an easily readable style and brings history to life.”

Frederick Camfield, Vicksburg, MS

### **The Line Upon A Wind: The Great War at Sea 1793-1815**

By Noel Mostert, 2007, publ. W.W. Norton & Company

Available Amazon \$27.30 hardcover (3/2022)

“This is certainly one of the best and most complete histories of the war at sea in the Napoleonic Age. To find more detail, you'd need to go to a specialized book--such as Schom's book on Trafalgar or Dudley Pope's fine *The Black Ship* about the *Hermione* mutiny. There are books that contain some helpful maps--*Line Upon the Wind* has a few, but not enough, and so it would be useful for you to have at hand, say, Lambert's fine *War at Sea in the Age of Sail*, which has lots of beautifully drawn full-color diagrams of battles.

I don't think I've ever encountered a greater breadth of coverage for this era: I enjoy good naval histories, and I enjoy novels--particularly Dewey Lambdin's wonderful *Lewrie* series. But *Line Upon the Wind* has stories I've never read before.”

Review excerpt by David W. Straight, Knoxville, TN