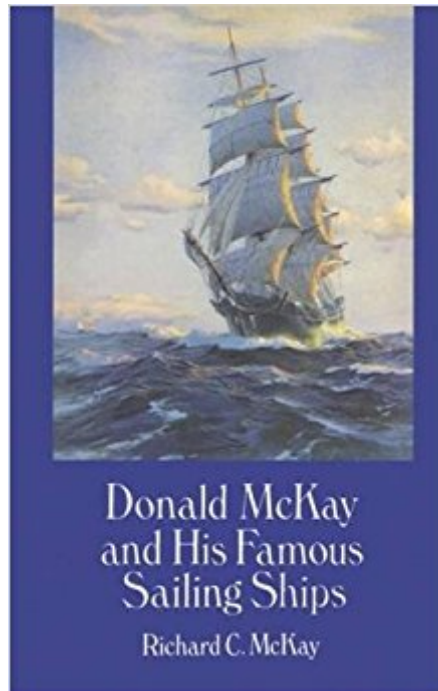




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Donald McKay And His Famous Sailing Ships (Dover Maritime)



Synopsis

"A magical tale of a master-mechanic and creative artist, whose genius lifted the construction of sailing ships from the level of a journeyman's trade to the plane of an exact science. He stands pre-eminent among those acute and daring Americans whose marine achievements were the wonder of the world — and enthroned the United States of America as Mistress of the Seas!" — • Foreword.

Donald McKay was the presiding genius of the nineteenth-century designer-builders who brought the American clipper ship and other sailing vessels to the acme of perfection. Year after year, his shipyard in East Boston launched a flotilla of the largest, fastest, and most beautiful clippers afloat. Such vessels as the famed Flying Cloud, Sovereign of the Seas, Flying Fish, Westward Ho, Great Republic, and many more surpassed in size, beauty, strength, and speed all that had gone before. McKay's ships proclaimed a new era of American supremacy on the high seas and helped put her first among the trading nations of the world. This rare and valuable study, written by McKay's descendant who had access to important family records, reveals McKay's extraordinary accomplishments as it re-creates the great era of the American sailing packet and clipper ship. In the end, steamships replaced McKay's masterworks, but never eclipsed the magnificent sailing tradition whose climax they represented. Enhanced with 58 superb illustrations, including numerous views of McKay's ships — in port, on the high seas, and in close-up detail — along with a wealth of plans, models, maps, and other materials, this volume will find an eager audience among ship enthusiasts and modelers, marine historians, and lovers of Americana.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book, although a reprint of a 1928 publication, can still enthrall with the detail about the development and evolution of the large and fast clipper ships that brought many settlers, including my ancestors, to Australia from the United Kingdom. It is easy to read and very informative, with a good balance of personalities and their achievements. Donald McKay was a gifted man who put the United States at the forefront of sailing ship design.

All my expectations fulfilled. Pictures blurry, but it is, after all, a cheap edition. Highly recommended for nautical historians, ship lovers and young americans !

Full of lots of great information about both Donald McKay and the fleet of amazing ships he built. He was a remarkable man

Most educational. Donald McKay contibuted immensely to the commerce & growth of our nation. 82 ships from his yard!

However, if you are interested in how Clipper ships were built, rigged, manned and sailed this isn't the book for you.

Wonderful tale of a Great Yankee Clipper Ship Builder of the 1850's and how he built beautiful ships.

Great information needed for writing a book of my own, so wonderful to have authentic detail. Nothing more to add.

Thorough book - I found the ship my ancestor came to America on.

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