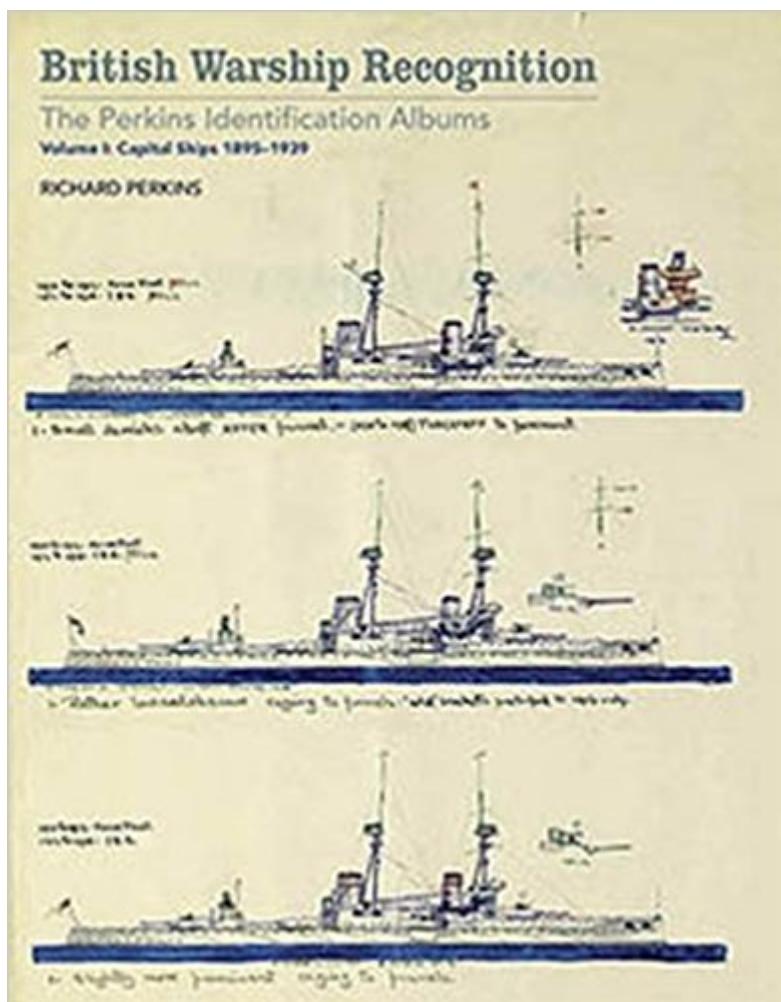


The book was found

British Warship Recognition: The Perkins Identification Album: Volume I Capital Ships 1895-1939



Synopsis

In the inter-war years Richard Perkins, an amateur photographer and avid collector, amassed one of the world's largest personal collections of warship negatives. He eventually donated the collection to the National Maritime Museum, where it still forms the core of the historic photos naval section. While he was actively acquiring photos, Perkins found that many were neither identified nor accurately dated, so he began to compile an album of his own drawings, which incorporated as much detail as possible on individual ships that could be amended as he discovered more information. This project grew into an enormous resource covering virtually every Royal Navy ship from 1860 to 1939, when security restrictions forced Perkins to stop work. This project material was also donated to the National Maritime Museum, where it was bound into eight large folio volumes that became a key reference for the curators of historic photos, but unknown and almost inaccessible to the interested public. As a result, the actual publication of the volumes is an event of utmost importance for every enthusiast and ship modeler. These albums will be important to every enthusiast and ship modeler, who will now be able to own a copy of this unique and invaluable reference work for the very first time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Perkins was a leading light in the Naval Photograph Club, where he became the acknowledged expert on identifying and dating warship photos. What he called his "Historical Identification Book" was originally intended only to help with this work, but

its wider significance is highlighted in this edition by Andrew Choong, Curator of Historic Photos for the National Maritime Museum. Andrew Choong is Curator of Historic Photos at the National Maritime Museum.

This is a beautiful book, from the original drawings of the author. Various modern treatises on the construction and appearances of warships of the twentieth century may have surpassed it in terms of information content, but the quality of the drawings and of the reproduction in this large-format book is outstanding. I'm pleased to have it in my collection.

BRITISH WARSHIP RECOGNITION
The Perkins Identification Albums
Volume 1: Capital Ships 1895-1939

This beautifully produced, large format book consists of many coloured drawings of British warship profiles. They show only the external features of the ships, as seen from a considerable distance, to enable the observer to identify the ship. The introduction notes that the author-photographer-artist, Richard Perkins, was the foremost expert in identification of British warships until his death in 1985. He was a talented photographer who took many photographs of the ships. Three of these appear on the frontspiece. Since this book is an accurate reproduction of one of Perkins' albums, the pictures are all hand drawn and coloured, and photographs are unfortunately not involved. The drawings themselves are attractive, but they are technical drawings, not art. Since the album is essentially a catalogue, the style is constant throughout. The drawings provide no sense of scale or size and the only visual viewpoint is a strictly lateral one of the full length of the ships sides. Frankly, for this reader, they became a bit boring. There is minimal information about the history of each ship, except where and when it was seen, and details of modifications to the ship's external appearance which might assist with its identification. For obvious reasons, the collection of information ceased in 1939. Ship modellers might find the detailed drawings of details such as funnel shapes and mast geometry useful, but they will be frustrated by the total lack of dimensions and scale. Unfortunately, I cannot recommend this book for the reader who is interested in naval history and ship construction but I am sure that it will appeal to naval book collectors and bibliophiles. John Viggers

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