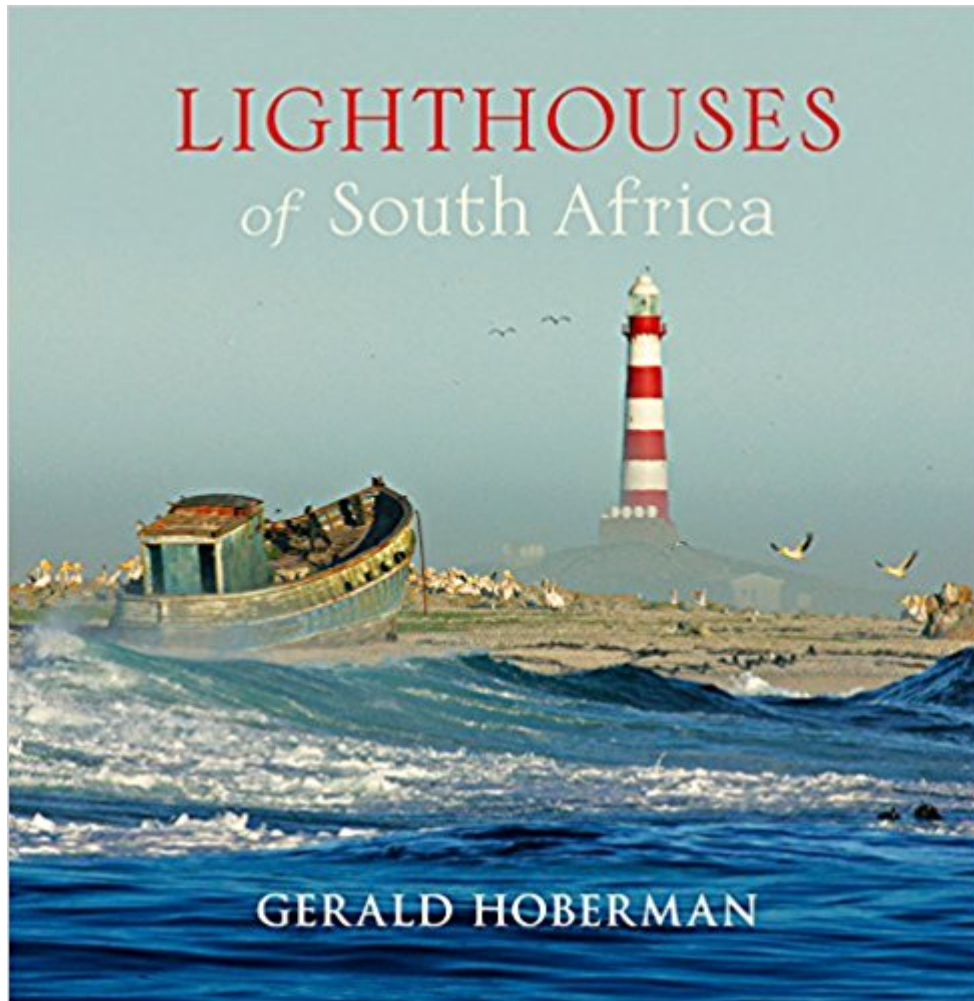




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Lighthouses Of South Africa



Synopsis

This extraordinary book is a landmark in lighthouse literature. Profusely illustrated with dramatic photographs taken by world-renowned master photographer Gerald Hoberman from the land, the sea and the air (as well as photographs of the mechanisms and optics of the lighthouses), this treasure trove tells of the romance of men who have gone down to the sea in ships along the perilous coastline of Africa's Cape of Storms. This epic book features the important role of lighthouses since the earliest known light at Pharos in the Ancient World, to the 45 lighthouses and beacons, fauna and flora, marine life, breathtaking scenery, lighthouse keepers and people around the southern shores of the African continent. Working in collaboration with specialist consultant, James Collocott of the Transnet National Ports Authority, who commissioned this book, Hoberman reveals a multifaceted insight into every aspect of lighthouses. Though detailed in content, with co-ordinates and a host of technical specifications for each lighthouse, which will satisfy the most discerning pharologist, the book's design is a visual delight that is easy to navigate. The book reveals the optical, mechanical and civil engineering genius, innovation and traditions of lighthouse science, against often treacherous and logistically challenging odds, in sometimes remote, uninhabited territory and wild seas. Hoberman enlivens history, painting a vivid picture of legendary shipwrecks, providing graphic and dramatic accounts of the sheer terror of being shipwrecked, and blending in the story of civil lobbying for the establishment of lighthouses and other threads in the rich fabric of social history. There are maps showing the locations of the lighthouses and shipwrecks. The chapter headings incorporate delightful pencil drawings of the lighthouses by Mellany Fick and an anthology of poems from Virgil and Shakespeare to Kipling and Masfield.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gerald Hoberman, founder of the world-renowned Hoberman Collection, is a master photographer, author, designer and specialist publisher of distinction. His vast and ever-growing collection of photographically illustrated books and photographs is widely published and in constant demand. Hoberman Collection books are to be found in many important libraries including that of Her Majesty The Queen, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. and the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Clients include Her Majesty's Fortress the Tower of London, Hampton Court, St Paul's Cathedral and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

I enjoyed the style of the book immensely. About six to eight pages of descriptions, dramatic photographs taken by world-renowned photographer Gerald Hoberman with views from the land, the sea and the air, and a page or two covering general history, illustrate each lighthouse. Mr. Hoberman consulted with Messrs. James Collocott, Manager Lighthouse Service of the Transnet National Ports Authority and Vice President of the IALA and Harold Williams, retired lighthouse engineer to provide additional technical and historic details about each light. Also included are over 45 maps of the various locations along with nautical poems and quotations and a general view of the surroundings of each lighthouse location. Each lighthouse listing includes its position, nearest town, date commissioned, architect, builder, material from which constructed, cost, height of tower, height of focal plane, optics (original and replacements through time), light source, light character, intensity, range, other equipment, South African heritage status, whether manned, and if open to the public. While the book covers 45 of the lights in South Africa, it also includes photographs giving a much broader view of the country's fauna, flora, and many detailed photos of interesting artifacts in and about each lighthouse including some of the keepers. It also provides graphic accounts of the terror of shipwrecks in the area and the story of the local and colonial lobbying for the establishment of the lighthouses. You can take an armchair trip around the coast of South Africa seeing each lighthouse and learning about the area. Although it is not as good as taking a US Lighthouse Society tour of the lights, you will still come away with a full understanding of the lighthouses of South Africa. The book is on the more costly side due to import costs, yet it is still an extraordinary buy based on its quality and contents. If you are at all interested in the South African lighthouses or if you just want a fantastic coffee table book to impress your friends - I suggest you buy a copy!

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