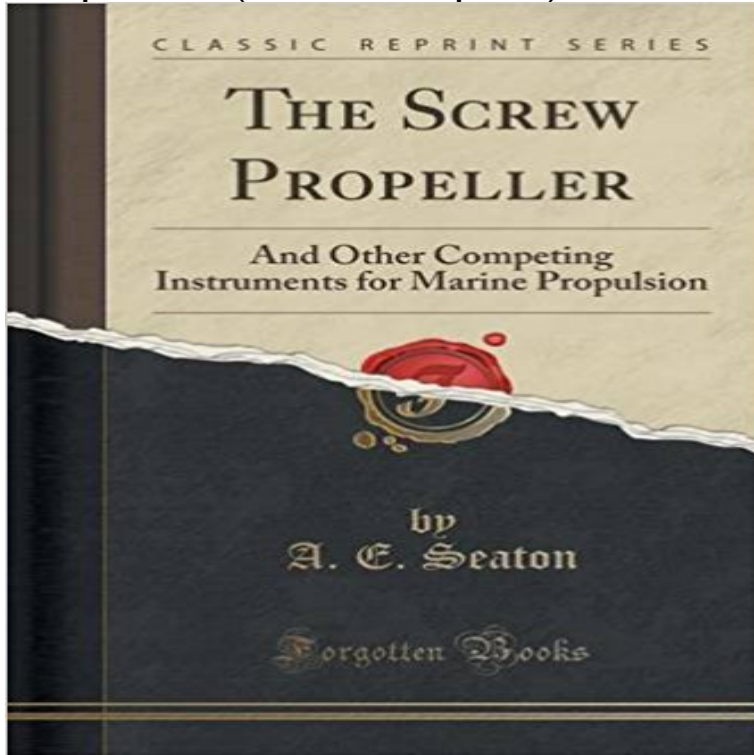


The Screw Propeller: And Other Competing Instruments for Marine Propulsion (Classic Reprint)



Excerpt from The Screw Propeller: And Other Competing Instruments for Marine Propulsion

Some thirty-two years ago, when engaged in putting forth the Manual of Marine Engineering I could not find a single book on the Screw Propeller, or any text book containing such information on it as would enable a draughtsman to get out the leading dimensions, and much less to make a complete design of a screw suitable for any particular ship and conditions. At that time John Bournes admirable book on the Screw Propeller was not only out of print, but out of date, and I fear no engineer could at any time have designed a screw which would give satisfactory results from what was contained in it. It was, however, many years after that I first saw his work, and my wonder then, as now, is that such a book was allowed to disappear, seeing how much of interest it contained. But perhaps the strongest comment on the knowledge of the screw propeller at that time is in the admission of the then Engineer-in-Chief of the British Navy, that he had settled the design of those for so very important a ship as the Iris, intended to be the fastest ship in the Navy, by copying that of H.M.S. Himalaya, a ship built in 1854, with the result that the British Admiralty, with all its knowledge and opportunities, with all its records of tests and trials, perpetrated a blunder never equalled in the history of steam navigation, although in the mercantile marine there had been not a few mistakes. But even in modern times, notwithstanding the better knowledge and the aid of tank experiments, our best men do sometimes fail to achieve success, but the magnitude of the failure is inconsiderable compared with that of the Iris. In the Manual of Marine Engineering I attempted to supply the wants of designers by giving a rule or formula for each important dimension, generally based on scientific reasons, and always capable of giving results agreeable with the best and

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