

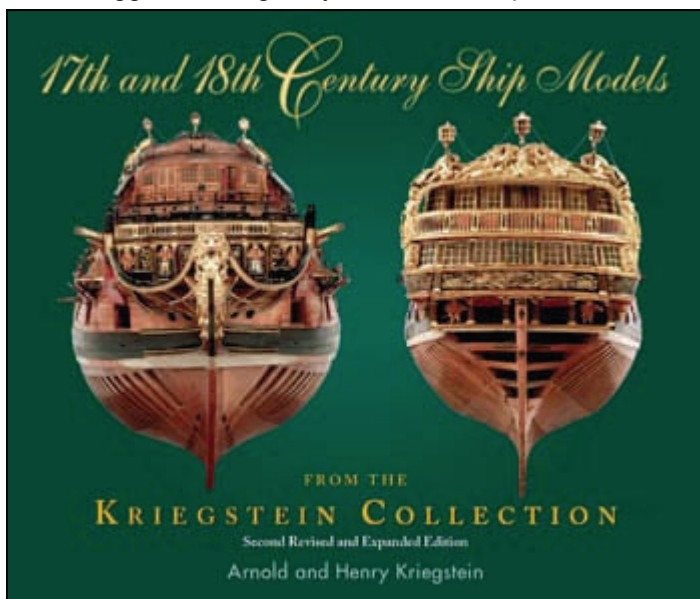
17th & 18th Century Ship Models

From the Kriegstein Collection

By Arnold & Henry Kriegstein

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For those of you who were unable to obtain the 2007 edition of *17th & 18th Century Ship Models From the Kriegstein Collection* by Arnold and Henry Kriegstein, your long wait is over. Bob Friedman of SeaWatch Books, LLC has issued a second edition of this remarkable work that is bigger, and arguably better than its predecessor.



Over the past three-plus years the Kriegstein brothers have continued to add models and other rare and interesting artifacts to one of the most remarkable private collections in the world. In the book, each model, work of art or artifact listed represents a chapter, and five new chapters have been added for a total of thirty.

Each chapter follows a sequence, which begins with the subject's Acquisition. The stories about how the various pieces in the collection were obtained are varied, and present some fascinating reading. In many cases it required patience, perseverance, good business contacts, and sometimes, a little luck, before an acquisition could be made.

This segment is followed by Provenance, Condition/Construction, Historical Perspective and references. Depending on the amount of information available, the content of these various portions of each chapter vary, but it is evident that the Kriegsteins have placed a very high value on documenting their collection.

Even after the artifacts have been acquired, these two avid collectors do not stop searching for clues as to the identity or history of an item. A good case in point is the *Northumberland*, a 3rd Rate of 1702. In the first edition,

this model is referred to as a "Queen Anne 3rd rate, circa 1702".

The fact that this fine dockyard model had been identified, impacted the opening remarks and Historical Perspective to a considerable extent. However, not all the chapters have undergone such radical changes.

If one were to compare the two books, it is evident that, prior to going to press, the Kriegsteins had reviewed each chapter. Editing was evident, but in most cases, it was very subtle, and always for the better.

SeaWatch is especially proud of the fact that this book was printed using a very high resolution process. This writer was curious as to just how much of an impact this new process had on the quality of the book. Having a copy of the first edition, the two books were placed side by side, and a page by page comparison was made. The level of detail in the newer version was quite evident. When one considers that this book, for the most part, features models possessing intricate carvings and delicate rigging and joinery, the benefits of these highly detailed photos cannot be overstated.

The last two chapters of the book describe the trials and tribulations of being a collector of such fine models. The first deals with "Care and Conservation", which entails avoiding the ravages of dust, light, heat, damp, trauma, and consumption, as in woodworms. Ironically, although not to be tolerated of course, the presence of woodworm holes can be a reassuring sign that the model is a genuine antique. This discussion brings the reader to the final chapter that deals with fakes and forgeries.

In this final segment, the authors share their experiences, and encounters with not-so-authentic models being portrayed as genuine antiques. Like the previous 29 chapters, it makes for fascinating reading!

If one were to go back and read the sterling reviews written for the first edition of *17th & 18th Century Ship Models from the Kriegstein Collection*, they would certainly be appropriate, and then some, for this remarkable book. It is highly recommended!



Reviewed by
Bob Filipowski