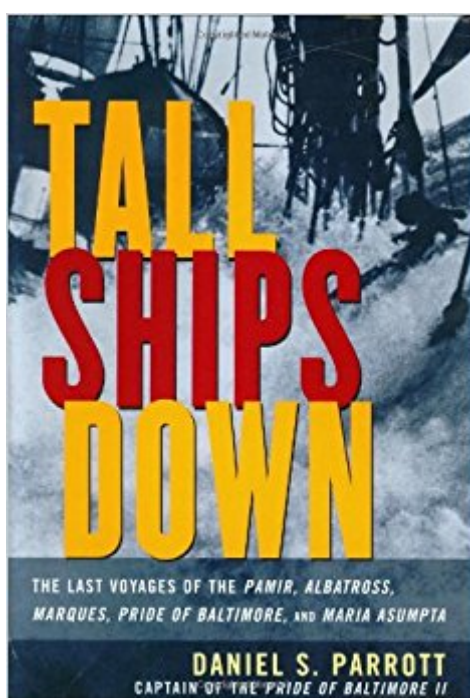


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# Tall Ships Down : The Last Voyages Of The Pamir, Albatross, Marques, Pride Of Baltimore, And Maria Asumpta



## Synopsis

Captain Daniel Parrott, captain of the 170-foot topsail schooner *Pride of Baltimore II*, is a professional mariner of 18 years' experience in tall ships. While earning a master's degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island in 1998, Parrott undertook an in-depth, critical reexamination of the official inquiries and other records pertaining to the losses of the 316-foot bark *Pamir* in 1957; the 117-foot brigantine *Albatross* in 1961; the 117-foot bark *Marques* in 1984; the 137-foot schooner *Pride of Baltimore* in 1986; and the 125-foot brig *Maria Asumpta* in 1995. Each of these casualties is ingrained in the consciousness of serious sailors. Each of them involved loss of life - 112 lost crew in total. Each is a frequent topic of sailors' talk and speculations. Parrott's 320-page master's thesis aimed primarily to trace the impact of these tragedies on the development of sail training around the world. In the end he did more, providing sobering insights into the circumstances surrounding these losses. *Tall Ships Down* is an outgrowth of Parrott's thesis research, framing his inquiries and conclusions for a broad seagoing audience. This book will be required reading for all those involved in the growing sail-training effort around the world, of course, but it is also rich in interest and significance for all sailors and mariners. It outlines the history of each ship from its building, showing how mission changes, structural changes, rig modifications, and ownership changes can erode a ship's seaworthiness over time. Then we relive the final voyages, dissecting the circumstances of loss from forensic evidence and the memories of survivors. Carefully examined, the evidence shows casualties that have been considered acts of god probably resulted from an ignorance or neglect of age-old practices of seamanship. Cargo loose in holds, hatches unsecured at sea, freeing ports timbered shut, rig and stability changes carried out with insufficient regard to their possible impacts on seaworthiness - these and other factors emerge from Parrott's in-depth analysis as contributing factors. In the book's concluding section - in what amounts to an unforgettable seminar on seamanship--Parrott explores the impacts of ship stability, structural integrity, weather, human error, and standards of risk on safety at sea. In the end, *Tall Ships Down* is about the lore of the sea and the wisdom of seamanship, and in that regard its lessons are applicable to small sailboats as well as tall ships. Students of the sea will read this book for its historical significance. Armchair sailors will be drawn to the vivid, tragic stories. Professional mariners will read it for its seagoing wisdom. And all sailors will draw from it a deeper understanding of what it takes to be safe at sea.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: International Marine Publishing; First American Edition edition (October 18, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0071390928

ISBN-13: 978-0071390927

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,011,857 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Sports &

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## Customer Reviews

There is something endlessly fascinating about shipwrecks, as this book so admirably demonstrates. Parrott writes with ease and authority, carefully blending both historical and technical data. - Baltimore Sun; Gripping reading. Not much detective fiction holds a reader's attention so well. A must-read for anyone with any interest in large sailing ships in general, and square-riggers in particular. - WoodenBoat; If you might like to read a closely reasoned seaman's appraisal of not one, but several maritime disasters, you will be richly rewarded by Tall Ships Down. - SAIL --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Five stories of tragic loss for anyone who loves--or fears--the sea "If you are at all interested in the literature of the sea, you will find here an extraordinary investigation of some of sailing's most tragic accidents, with many sobering lessons. If you are a professional sailor, or aspire to be, Tall Ships Down is required reading. Period." --Captain G. Andy Chase, Maine Maritime Academy, author of Auxiliary Sail Vessel Operations "An impassioned sailor and scholar unafraid of the hard questions, Dan Parrott focuses his seaman's eye on the challenges and risks of voyaging under sail aboard traditional vessels and brings meaning, understanding, and even hope from these tragic losses. Every sailor, professional or amateur, will learn much from these stories." --Jon Wilson, editor in chief, WoodenBoat "Captain Parrot examines five of the most infamous tragedies in modern tall-ship history. Weather, stability, crew actions, blame -- the debates and questions may now cease. Parrott's case histories are the ultimate reference work." --Jim Carrier, author of The Ship and the Storm Technologically outmoded and once nearly swept from the seas, tall ships have

experienced a fifty-year renaissance as sail training and passenger vessels, and we are the richer for it. After all, what sight has more power to stir the soul than a tall ship under sail with its acres of canvas and miles of rigging? But that resurgence has had a tragic side, and professional mariner and maritime scholar Dan Parrott explores it in *Tall Ships Down*, a groundbreaking reconstruction of the losses of the 316-foot barque *Pamir* in 1957; the 117-foot brigantine *Albatross* in 1961; the 117-foot barque *Marques* in 1984; the 137-foot *Pride of Baltimore* in 1986; and the 125-foot brig *Maria Asumpta* in 1995. Together, these disasters claimed 112 lives. The heartbreaking stories of these majestic ships have been subject to mystery and distortion. In some instances even the survivors could not explain what went wrong, and in others the official inquiries failed to articulate the most critical lessons hidden in the sudden, terrible catastrophes--until now. Parrott traces the history of each ship from its building and early career through subsequent owners' modifications. His vivid re-creations of each final voyage dissect the circumstances of loss from forensic evidence, expert testimony, survivors' memories, and his own considerable experience. Carefully examined, the evidence shows that, contrary to some official findings, ignorance of and disregard for age-old practices of seamanship were at least as responsible for the tragedies as "acts of God." In some instances the seeds of a ship's ultimate undoing were planted years before, as ill-considered structural changes, rig modifications, and "mission creep" eroded its stability and seaworthiness. Cargo loose in holds, hatches unsecured at sea, freeing ports timbered shut, failure to preserve proper sea room--these and other factors emerge from Parrott's analysis as contributing factors. Rich with history, lore, and survivors' incredible firsthand accounts, *Tall Ships Down* is more than a great read. It's an unforgettable seminar grounded in the sea's most fundamental truth--that small and seemingly insignificant lapses can have fatal consequences.

Excellent study of safety at sea on Tall Ships. Worth the read for any serious sailor.

This is a great book. I've been involved in the tall ship community from the business development side of things and this book is invaluable for anyone interested in tall ship ventures. If you're a tall ships fan or a sailor, this book is also very good. As a sailor, I've seen first hand how things can go instantly from zero to chaos. Reading these examples of predictable, preventable accidents was an eye opener and a useful primer. Finally, if you like true sea stories, this is a book for you.

This book is incredible, I bought it looking for details on one specific ship, and got so much more out of it than I expected that I was very surprised, and have added it to my "Best Of" Bookcase. It's well

worth the read and is very well detailed.

People read books for different reasons; Perhaps to educate, to scare, to entertain, to laugh, to amuse. While Tall Ships Down is quite brilliantly written it reads like a very dry textbook and I found it very difficult to enjoy. It could very well have been written as a textbook for a University course and reads very much like that is its intended purpose. Despite the exciting subject of disasters at sea, you'll find little excitement in these pages and I would seek that stimulation elsewhere.

An interesting read but it is dated and there have been new "sinking's" that should be included in the next edition.

Received as described. delivery on time receive it next day . The product was very sharp and smooth when cutting thin slices of bread. as description. my parents need it,

Readers seeking spine-tingling narratives of sea disasters will be disappointed with Tall Ships Down, because this brilliant book is instead a penetrating analysis of the circumstances of loss of several traditional sail ships in recent times. In five lucid essays, the author uses each sinking to illuminate the intersection of changes in nautical technological traditions, situational decision-making, and construction of sailing heritage. Beyond sailors or maritime buffs, this superbly written work should capture anyone interested in the sociology of technological change. The author is thoughtful and engaging, with his experience as captain of large traditional sail ships only one source of the book's extraordinary insights. Tall Ships Down will take its place as a classic alongside technology and culture studies such as Hilton's Eastland: Legacy of the Titanic. I'd consider it a shame if the author does not give us next a full-length treatment of the sinking of the Pamir, or a biography of Alan Villiers.

Unbelievable quality for the price. just fine. very good . very good . for my family ,

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