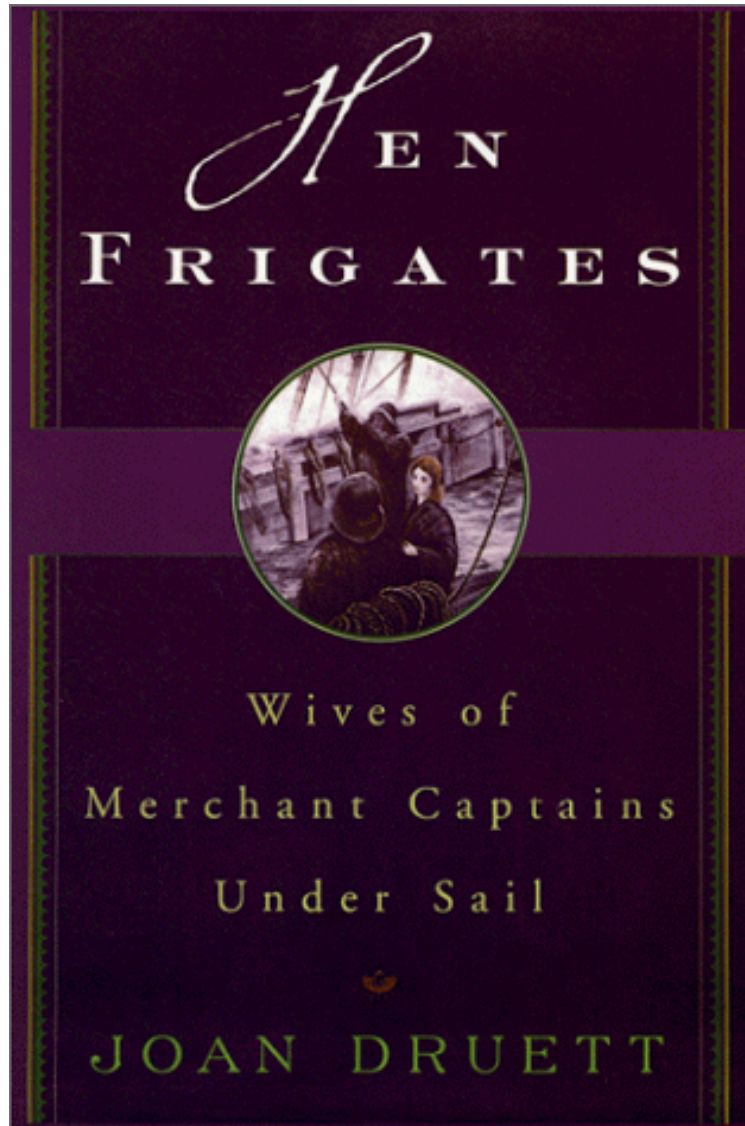


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## Hen Frigates: Wives of Merchant Captains Under Sail

Joan Druett

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#14716267 in Books Thorndike Press 1999-02Format: Large PrintOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 .95 x 6.36 x 9.48l, #File Name: 0783804180493 pages | File size: 64.Mb

**Joan Druett : Hen Frigates: Wives of Merchant Captains Under Sail** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hen Frigates: Wives of Merchant Captains Under Sail:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Closely Observing the Sea Captain's Wife and moreBy Donn G. ZiebellReview by Donn G. Ziebell, Ph.D., Never kicked by a horse nor a mule, and author of the non-fiction book, My Letters to a Prisoner I had not met. Become an insider to the humor and private life of the writer's encounters and adventures home and abroad; a selection from over 100 letters written in six years.This book won the John Lyman

Award for the Best Book of American Maritime History because it permits the reader to learn about sailing the seas in the early 1800's from women's experiences. The author has used many resources chief among them being historical letters and diaries of new brides and wives of frigate sea captains. Life at sea, isolation, elation just seeing or "speaking" to another passing frigate, along with the captains need to practice medicine on board, including helping his wife giving birth at sea and her raising children among the conduct of a crew of seamen are eye witness accounts. Would you like your four year old to climb the rigging of a tall ship? Numerous wives learned navigation skills better than many first mates. Some had to commandeer the ship if her husband was ill, injured or died. Animals and conditions on-board, types of cargos, disease, storms, injuries and deaths all intermingle in the high adventure on old masted sailing ships. The world fleet of independently owned sailing frigates networked the global seaports together with trade goods delivered upon fate's willingness and unexpected risks including the weather. The 1800s era of the global cargo delivery system was by chance; 100 years before some normality was achieved by steamships, and 200 years before UPS FedX efficiency. The anticipated social events in foreign harbors and ports cross-culturally educated the captain's wives. In turn this book's recorded experiences of the wives provides reader fascination. So much so, when told to family and friends back home, the wives that survived life at sea kept their listeners spellbound and sometimes agast as you may be as you read this very interesting and historically factual book. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Accounts of the Sea By Scott Joan Druett has put together fascinating stories about women that set sail with their husbands. Not only have their trials and tribulations been recorded, but first hand accounts from diaries were beautifully interlaced among the stories. The illustrations are well done and I agree with other reviews in that it was a hard book to put down. The material was well researched and very easy to read. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great fun and fascinating history By Rick Hunter Joan Druett's *Hen Frigates: Wives of Merchant Captains Under Sail* is a delightful book. Profusely illustrated, this largely anecdotal account gives the sense of life at sea during the age of sail from the woman's perspective. Because, however, so much of the hardships of sail belonged to the whole crew, Druett does not limit her writing to the wives, although much of her point of view is taken from several journals and diaries of these intrepid women. This is not so much a work of interpretative history or argument as it is a collection of delightful yarns. I found Druett a very pleasant and amiable companion.

Book by Druett, Joan

.com "I have crossed the Atlantic four times, and have been once to the East Indies and back again, and only once; besides being in different places about home: Cork, and Lisbon and Gibraltar.... and I can safely say that the happiest part of my life has been spent on board a ship. While we were together, you know, there was nothing to be feared." -- Mrs. Croft in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* Much has been made of man's romance with the sea, and to read the literature--from Homer's *Odyssey* to Melville's *Moby Dick*--you'd never guess that women so much as got their feet wet in the surf, let alone went down to the sea in ships. But Jane Austen's fictional Mrs. Croft, the wife of an admiral, was by no means a rarity in her time as Joan Druett's fascinating exploration of women and the sea, *Hen Frigates*, makes clear. During the 19th century, women often accompanied their sea-captain husbands or fathers on oceangoing merchant ships, enduring the same hardships as the male sailors--sickness, poor weather, shipwreck, piracy--and a few of their own, as well, such as pregnancy and childbirth. Yet the history of women at sea has remained largely unwritten and unacknowledged. Then in 1984, Druett discovered the gravestone of a whaling captain's wife while bicycling on one of the Cook Islands in Polynesia. "A woman on a whaleship! It seemed incredible. Instantly fascinated, I thought I would look up a book to learn more about this young woman who had made such a strange and fatal decision to go to sea." What Druett discovered, however, was that there was no book. So she wrote one herself. In *Hen Frigates*, Druett has used the letters and journals of seafaring women to limn a portrait of 19th-century ship-going life, including matters such as sex, child-rearing and medical practices. From shipwreck and pirate attacks to the intricacies of navigation and the pleasures of visiting foreign lands, Druett's heroines shed new perspective on the 19th-century shipping news. From Publishers Weekly Historical sidelights can be as intriguing as major events, as in this study of 19th-century sea captains' wives who sailed with their husbands and recorded their impressions in journals and letters. Druett (*Petticoat Whalers*) points out that in some instances finances dictated that wives be taken along, for a captain who put all of his capital into a ship might have no funds for a home on land. But there were other motivations, too, such as enjoying a honeymoon or sharing experiences. The Victorian female was as "submissive, timid and impregnably virtuous," but the work on shipboard put no premium on submission or timidity. Children were born and raised on ships, with the captain often delivering his own offspring; the captain's wife frequently served as cook and repaired torn sails, and the couple joined forces to fight wind and weather as well as illness. The book provides solid entertainment along with interesting information. Illustrations. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Maritime historian Druett (*The Sailing Circle*, Whale Museum Society, 1995) writes knowledgeably about the wives of merchant sea captains under sail during the 19th century. From the horrifying to the amusing and the mundane, Druett has mined these stories from personal journals and letters kept by seafaring wives. Young women

facing their first trip at sea were often frightened by the weather, tormented by sea sickness, and bored by a lack of activity and company. Because the captain's wife was often the only woman on board, she had little companionship, as socializing with the crew would not have been acceptable and her husband would have been too busy to spend much time with her. Children were conceived, born, and sometimes raised at sea. In her well-written study, Druett ably demonstrates how these women endured isolation to form their own unique life experience at sea. Informative and entertaining reading for maritime history and women's studies collections. ?Roseanne Castellino, Arthur D. Little, Cambridge, MACopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.