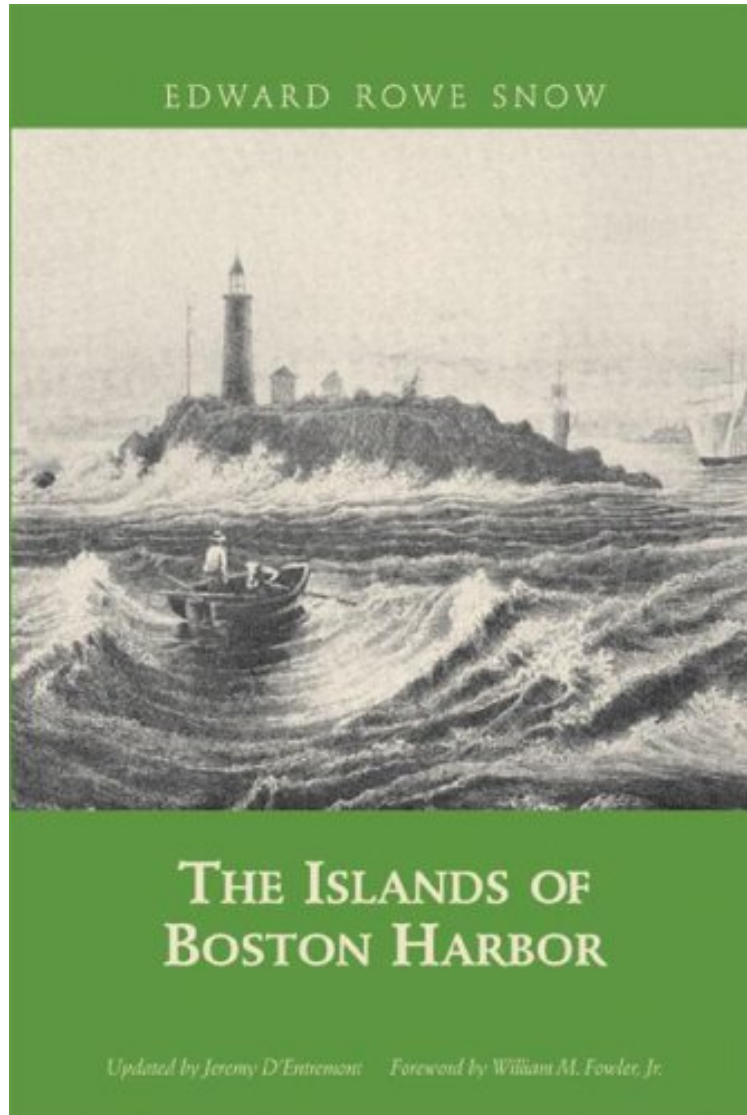


[Mobile library] The Islands of Boston Harbor (Snow Centennial Editions)

The Islands of Boston Harbor (Snow Centennial Editions)

Edward Rowe Snow

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Edward Rowe Snow : The Islands of Boston Harbor (Snow Centennial Editions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Islands of Boston Harbor (Snow Centennial Editions):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Boston Harbor Island stories. By Neil Rasmussen When I was a child I met the author during one of my ventures via sailboat to Boston Harbor. An incredible story teller on the history of the Boston Harbor islands. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jeanne Sandford Excellent 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Liese excellent

A reissue of Edward Rowe Snow's first book, covering the legends and history of nearly every rock and island in Boston Harbor, including Boston Light and Graves Light. The first (1935) edition resulted from research Snow did at Harvard under the tutelage of the great maritime historian Samuel Eliot Morison. When the 1971 edition of the book was published, a critic for the Boston Post wrote, "Mr. Snow has the gift of making his subject vivid and personal in its anecdotal touches . . . It is a volume of chatty yet dignified essays, with many a light touch brought in." This centennial edition contains the complete 1971 text, with annotations by Jeremy D'Entremont to bring the information up to date.

From the Publisher Edward Rowe Snow. It is a name we have been forced to reckon with in five years of building Commonwealth Editions as a publisher of nonfiction books about New England and its historic places. Edward Rowe Snow. Everywhere we heard the name from readers, from booksellers, from historians, from other authors. Nowhere we saw the books. Not new books, anyway. New editions of Snow were nowhere to be found. Snows out of print, we were told. Hasnt been in print for fifteen years. Love to see him in print, booksellers told us. People ask for his books all the time. We found fan clubs devoted to Edward Rowe Snow and catalogs and web sites filled with used copies of his books. More than once we heard the joke that a first edition of his work is more valuable unsigned than signed: Snow was such a tireless promoter of his own work, so willing to sign books anywhere on any occasion, that the unsigned book is rare indeed. We could not find his books, but we found his legend everywhere. It seemed to us that half of New England had grown up "at the feet" of Edward Rowe Snow, taking in his tales like mothers milk or a good bowl of chowder on a cold, stormy day. And booksellers virtually begged us to reissue Snows books. Ken Gloss of the legendary Brattle Book Shop in Boston was typical: "Not a week goes by," he told us, "that I dont get a request for a book by Edward Rowe Snow." Or maybe he said day. It was Gloss who finally tipped us off to the whereabouts of the one person on earth who literally grew up at the feet of Edward Rowe Snow. Dorothy Snow Bicknell, an extraordinarily kind and gentle woman known to what must be countless friends as "Dolly," is Snows daughter and only child. On a cold November day, we met Dolly at the South Shore Mall, where a model "Lighthouse Santa" still pays tribute to Snow. She charmed us with her devotion to her fathers memory. And I like to think she recognized Commonwealth Editions as a publisher that could do justice to that memory. With Dolly we met Jeremy D'Entremont, who proved to be much more than a passionate fan of Edward Rowe Snow (we already knew plenty of those). As knowledgeable as he is dedicated, Jeremy provided the key to this new centennial edition of Snows work by respectfully updating and, here and there, gently correcting the masters work. At the end of each chapter are Jeremys notes, which bring Snows text to the present day. It is too bad there are no lighthouse keepers anymore, because Jeremy D'Entremont was born for the work. A beacon kept lit with his discernment and devotion would keep vessels safe in the severest weather, on the craggiest shore. Snow partisan Bob Jannoni provided encouragement for this new edition, and designer Judy Barolak gave it grace and dignity. Bill Stokinger of the Metropolitan District Commission provided photos and reviewed the text. Steve Csipke developed a new, thematic index. One other person is worthy of note. Our managing editor, Penny Stratton, pulled together with Dolly and Jeremy and the many talented contributors and, against all odds, brought this new edition of Edward Rowe Snow to port. All involved with this project have been invigorated by the spirit and legend of Edward Rowe Snow. Webster Bull Commonwealth Editions Publisher Summer 2002 About the Author Edward Rowe Snow (1902-1982) is remembered as one of the most vivid chroniclers of New England maritime history. Beginning with the publication of *The Islands of Boston Harbor* in 1935, he made his name as a historian of the New England coast - and also as a popular storyteller, lecturer, preservationist, and treasure hunter. For forty years, Snow flew to the lighthouses of New England as the "Flying Santa," dropping Christmas parcels for the keepers and their families. A granite memorial to Edward Rowe Snow, "Mr. New England," on Georges Island in Boston Harbor was dedicated in 2000 by his many friends. An heir to the great tradition of Edward Rowe Snow, Jeremy D'Entremont has been writing about New England maritime history for more than two dozen years. Webmaster of "New England Lighthouses: A Virtual Guide" at www.newenglandlighthouses.net, he is founder of Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses and historian of the American Lighthouse Foundation. Jeremy is the series editor of the centennial editions of Edward Rowe Snow, and he has written a series of authoritative guides to America's lighthouses. He is also the author of *Great Shipwrecks of the Maine Coast*. He lives in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction As I write these words, I look out upon the tidal marshes of Marshfields North and South Rivers marshes that my father, Edward Rowe Snow, so loved. One of his favorite forms of relaxation between researching, writing, and lecturing was, as he would say, "chasing the elusive bivalve." Because I can still picture him enthusiastically canoeing or energetically hiking to those clam flats, I am amazed to realize that August 22, 2002, would have been his 100th birthday! What a fitting time for Commonwealth Editions to begin republishing his books. Growing up as the daughter of Edward Rowe Snow was an adventure in itself. Each day would bring something new and exciting to do. When I was six I canoed with my parents to greet the *Mayflower II* as it sailed into Plymouth Harbor. (I was thrilled to be able to be dressed as an Indian.) I was not much older when, this time as a Pilgrim child, I accompanied *Mayflowers* long boat. My father portayed Myles Standish as we retraced the *Shallops* voyage from Provincetown to Squantum. Part of the group of women who reenacted the first

washing of clothes in the New World, I remember thinking how silly it was to clean clothes in a very cold stream by beating them with a rock! There were endless opportunities to have fun such as canoeing from island to island in Maine, while doing research for a book being written about Casco Bay. How many times was I admonished, "Can't you talk and paddle at the same time?" I still can't. I would follow him anywhere! I would climb forts, disappear into dark, clammy dungeons, pretend to be the ghost of the Lady in Black to scare groups of people he was taking on tours. I remember thinking nothing of drinking tea salvaged from the Boston Tea Party, or carrying the skull of Blackbeard the Pirate into a lecture along with pirate daggers, coins, treasure chests, and the rest of my dad's curios. We would climb lighthouse after lighthouse. I remember being about halfway up the outside of Minot's Light when I heard a yell from my dad as he dove sixty-five feet from the top of the ladder into six feet of water! My mother was not pleased with him that day. And at Christmas time, it would be time for the annual Flying Santa flights. Every year from the time I was born until after I was married, I flew with my parents in a five-seat plane as we dropped packages for the lonely, isolated lighthouse keepers and their families. These flights were bumpy, rough, and scary, but I always knew that this was something really special, and that the keepers genuinely appreciated my father's efforts. Author, lecturer, historian, photographer, radio and television personality, Flying Santa of the lighthouses for forty-six years, Edward Rowe Snow truly loved his work. His enthusiasm was infectious, as was evidenced by the incredible numbers of people who were his loyal fans many of whom accompanied him on his adventures. His stories about lighthouses, pirates, mysteries, legends, ghosts, shipwrecks, buried treasure and more interested so many people that now, twenty years after his death, I still receive communications from those individuals whose lives took a different turn after meeting him or reading his books or articles. Jeremy D'Entremont, who updated the reissued editions of *The Lighthouses of New England* and *The Islands of Boston Harbor*, is one of those people. A longtime fan of my father, he is now a talented historian, photographer, lighthouse authority, film maker, and Edward Rowe Snow biographer. I value his friendship, and I appreciate all the hours of hard work he has spent not just on these books but in past years keeping my father's name alive. I am grateful for John Forbess' devotion to my father. I have been amazed by his tireless efforts to keep Edward Rowe Snow's work as a preservationist, historian, and author from being forgotten. John spearheaded the successful drive to raise funds and place a plaque on Georges Island in Boston Harbor in memory of my dad. I will always be thankful to him for that. I also appreciate Bob Jannonis' loyalty to my father and his writings. This interest helped lead to having these books published again. Special thanks go to Frederick G. S. Clow, my father's good friend. A professional photographer, he was a member of the Harbor Rambler's group that took weekly trips to exciting locations with my father. Fred has done some extraordinary work searching out his old negatives, and then developing them himself for inclusion in these books. I am glad to have had the opportunity to become reacquainted with him, and of course to reminisce. So I say "thank you" to these individuals and all those other fans who for years have asked that my father's books be available to the public once more. I am so pleased that Commonwealth Editions is publishing these books so that new generations will once again have the opportunity to be educated, enlightened, and entertained by the stories of Edward Rowe Snow. Dorothy (Dolly) Snow Bicknell