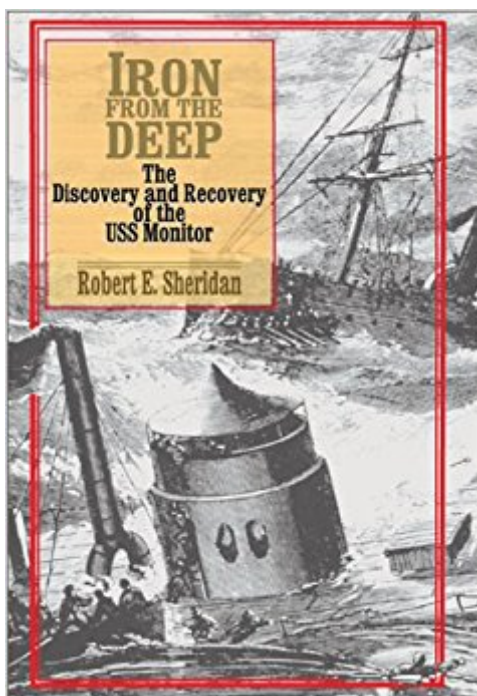


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Iron From The Deep: The Discovery And Recovery Of The USS Monitor



Synopsis

Robert Sheridan has been of the Monitor story since the 1970s, when his research vessel first made sonar contact with the long-lost wreck of the famous Civil War ironclad, and he collected the first identifiable artifact. In this book he combines his firsthand perspective of the Monitor's discovery and efforts to save her artifacts with an authoritative history of the ship that revolutionized naval ship design. Opening chapters discuss the ship's construction, her successful battle with the Merrimac in 1862 that spelled the end of wooden warships, and the Monitor's sinking later that year off Cape Hatteras. Comments from the secretary of the Navy who spurred the building of the Monitor, the captain who ordered her into action and the young lieutenant who survived the sinking, add color to these historically significant events. In addition to his personal account of the discovery of the Monitor, Sheridan addresses the issue of controls over the wreck and recovery proposals. He describes his nearly twenty years of lobbying to convince Congress that the Monitor's deterioration called for action. The book's final chapters chronicle the raising of artifacts from this national treasure. Although several books have been written about the dramatic history of the Yankee ironclad, and several others have been published about attempts to recover her, this is the first to cover both subjects in detail.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Sheridan has written a remarkable volume." -- Civil War Book Review, Summer 2004

Robert E. Sheridan is a professor of geological sciences at Rutgers University in New Jersey and one of the discoverers of the wreck of the Monitor.

If you are fascinated with John Ericsson (a real character AND a genius --do they make them like that anymore?) and his Monitor, you will love this book. Nothing left out here. Sometimes it veers on the minutiae of recovery too much and the writing tends to be dry and who needs the experience of an 8th grade class writing for recovery? But the references are great for further reading.

My husband loves it. My husband is a civil war enthusiast and it's hard to surprise him! always rocks!

The USS Monitor was a very revolutionary vessel that was the prototype for all military vessels today. The discovery of the Monitor was not by salvors or divers that regularly dive the Graveyard of the Atlantic but was found by a group of geological and oceanographic scientists that were conducting topographical measurements on the ocean floor. The wreck was discovered in 1973 by the lead scientists Robert Sheridan, Harold Edgerton, Gordon Watts and John Newton and several members from Duke, University of Delaware and University of Rhode Island. One of the best nautical books that you will ever read is Robert Sheridan's book on the discovery of the Monitor entitled *Iron from the Deep - The Discovery and Recovery of the USS Monitor*. The interactions between the the academic world, the military and the government is a a unique glimpse into the maniacal world of bureaucracy and ego. Although there is a fair amount of science, it is extremely interesting and lends credibility for the discovery and identification of the Monitor. I find it quite interesting that the story of the finding and recovery of the Monitor has always downplayed the role of these fine scientists. Hopefully, with the new Monitor Center, their scientific exploits and their significant role in the discovery of Monitor will be captured for the generations of future marine scientists. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in shipwrecks.

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