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REUBEN CHAPPELL

PIERHEAD PAINTER

Robert Jones

Reuben Chappell (1870-1940) is one of the country's best known ship portrait artists. This book traces his origins in Goole, Yorkshire, where he painted British and foreign vessels that came up the Humber to this inland port. In 1904 he and his family moved to Par in Cornwall where he continued to paint the many vessels that visited the china clay ports. Reuben Chappell was a highly industrious and talented ship portrait painter. His work is now held in both private and public collections. Chappell worked in the tradition known as Pierhead Painting, and this book is the first substantial publication about Chappell and his work.

Pierhead Painting is the term applied to the work of artists who specialised in painting portraits of ships for the seamen who manned them. Usually self taught, such artists sought commissions from the men aboard the ships that visited their own port, finishing their paintings before the vessel departed. Characteristically, and in the fashion established for such paintings, the ships depicted are almost universally painted from a broadside view, in fair or foul weather. As would be expected by ship owners and their captains the portraits are exact and technically accurate, and surviving works provide us with a fascinating catalogue of working vessels of the day.



A Cornishman, now established as one of the region's principal artists, **Robert Jones** is perhaps best known for his seascapes and maritime subjects. His paintings are concerned with atmosphere, changing weather and light conditions on land and at sea. Having formerly worked for seven years as skipper of fishing boats around the coast of west Cornwall, his knowledge of the sea, combined with his painting, led him to write a highly acclaimed book on the Cornish primitive artist, Alfred Wallis.

Alfred Wallis – Artist and Mariner was awarded the Holyer an Gof Trophy by the Cornish Gorsedd in 2002.

Robert Jones was made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd in 2005 (Bardic name Den Awenek.)

His continuing interest in maritime history and his admiration for the work of Reuben Chappell has led, following four year's research in Britain and Denmark, to the publication of this new book.



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FEATURE SECTIONS AND GALLERY – REUBEN CHAPPELL

Feature Sections:

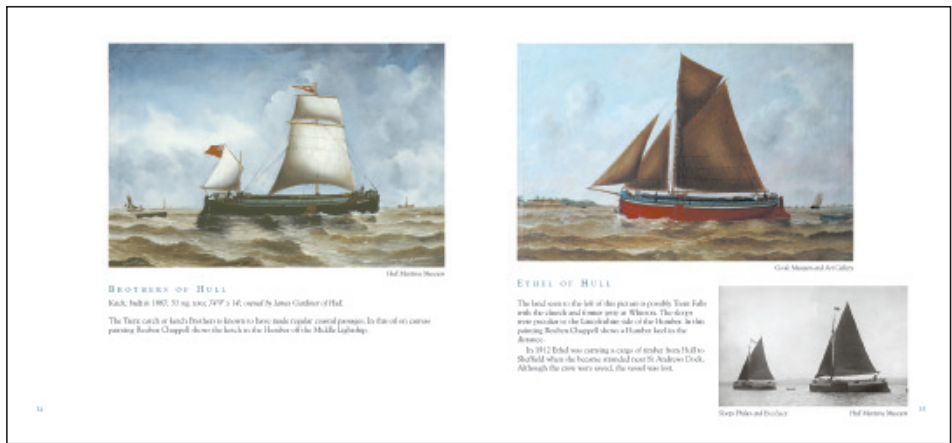
- Section 1 **Pierhead Painting**
- Section 2 **Life**
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- Section 6 **Wales, Liverpool & North West Coast Ships**
- Section 7 **Cutty Sark**



Clytia of Thurø. Troense Søfartsmuseum



Reuben Chappell.



Example of a double page spread.



Above: Crew of Dannebrog. Marstal Søfartsmuseum

SS James Tennant of Newcastle. Goole Museum and Art Gallery



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