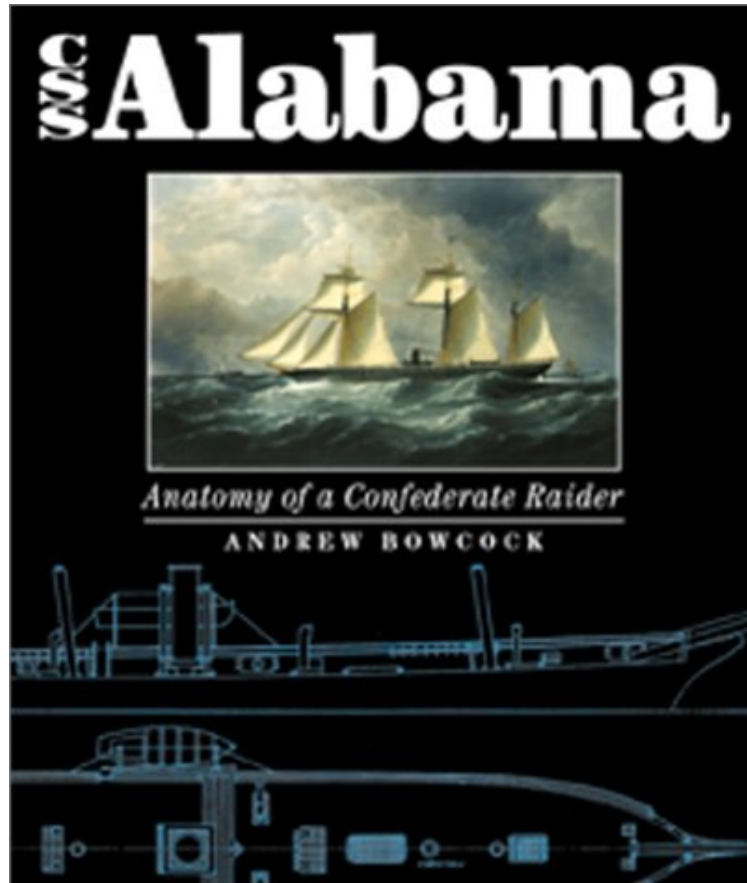


CSS Alabama: Anatomy of a Confederate Raider

Andrew Bowcock

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Andrew Bowcock : CSS Alabama: Anatomy of a Confederate Raider before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised CSS Alabama: Anatomy of a Confederate Raider:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must HaveBy J. M. RoigGreat addition to my library, and at a good price. A must for anyone researching the C.S.S. Alabama. Nicely organized and laid out, which made it easy to follow. Certainly a lot more research done than I could have completed on my own or would have found on the internet. Author did a great job.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book for every modeler to haveBy J RabutAs much accurate detail about the Alabama as possible. Very nice book and very much worth every penny. I would recomend it to anyone building a model of the Alabama.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Superb DissectionBy David GarrettAndrew Bowcock's "Anatomy" is exactly that, a superb dissection of the Confederate Steam Ship Alabama. If someone wished to rebuild Alabama - either as a scale model or operating duplicate, this could be the blueprint. The book is not for the faint hearted, but "project detail" for historians, model builders, naval engineers or architects, etc. seeking specifications of the commerce raider. Deep in primary and secondary research (i.e., original doucments and plans, contemporary accounts, and study of the discovered wreck off

the coast of France) the book features copies of original documents for the ship as proposed, built and in service. An interesting plus is the text of the contact between the CSA's James Bulloch and Birkenhead Work's William Laird, Jr. for the ship's construction. The 200 pages include photographs and paintings, line drawings in every conceivable level detail (hull, decks, sails and rigging, armament, and machinery), descriptions, as well as measurement and weight specifications, equipment descriptions and lists. A brief history of the vessel, from conception to its end, at the hands of USS Kearsarge, is addressed in the Introduction. The only aspects I found lacking were (a) all pictures and illustrations are in black and white and, (b) a lack of information on color (e.g., hull, boats, masts). Highly recommended for the discriminating Civil War naval interest.

Based on the latest research, including archaeological work on the recently rediscovered wreck, this book provides a complete anatomy in words, pictures, and drawings of one of the most famous ships of all time, the Confederate commerce raider Alabama of 1862. The sloop-of-war was known worldwide for her phenomenally destructive campaign against Union shipping that extended from coastal Texas to Cape Town, South Africa. Winning prizes estimated at \$6 million, the ship was eventually tracked down and sunk off the coast of Cherbourg by the USS Kearsarge. Despite enduring interest in the ship, many details of her structure and fitting are still a matter of debate. The ship's clandestine construction and delayed arming produced often contradictory evidence. For this book, the author sifted through every known contemporary photograph, painting, model, and plan to produce the most detailed set of drawings of the Alabama ever published. With more than 250 illustrations, plans, and line drawings, the work will delight naval historians, Civil War enthusiasts, and model-makers alike.

About the Author Andrew Bowcock became interested in the ship while working as a draughtsman for Cammell Laird, the direct descendant of the company that had built the ship over a century before. Although he had access to their records, significant details were missing, and his research led him to many other archives, and contacts with the diving group working on the wreck. He has written a number of articles, but this is his first book.