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YANKEE WHALERS

by

CLIFFORD W. ASHLEY, 1881-

NOVEMBER 1st to NOVEMBER 14th

1927

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MACBETH GALLERY 15 EAST 57th STREET NEW YORK CITY

FOREWORD

"Here we have the story of the Yankee Whaler from a man who has both delved into the past and lived through the action -from the student, the artist, and the whaleman all in one. Born in New Bedford, of blubber-hunting ancestry, Clifford W. Ashley was fitted by circumstances and temperament to be supremely happy in the ambience of the whaling tradition. He is old enough to have seen a score of square riggers fitting out at one time, and young enough to have suffered poignant regret when the Wanderer piled on the rocks of Cuttyhunk and the end had come. All his life he has been absorbed in tracing the evolution of rig and gear and handicraft as related to whaling. Endowed with more than his fair share of shrewd New England wit, keenly alive to the power and picturesqueness of the whaling unit, the thrill of portless roaming, the bloody and desperate quest - what are we not justified in expecting when Ashley packs his chest and ships aboard the Sunbeam?"

"He went prepared as no man had been before him and he went with an eager and an open mind. He pictures as no other has done the multifarious duties of the cooper, the whalecraftsman, the rigger, the subtleties of boat gear and of stowage. He nails to the mast, once and for all, a multiplicity of lies and misapprehensions which have crept into the record of whaling. He sees clearly the worst side as well as the best, but he has returned unsoured from his voyaging, and now lays his booty before us."

-Robert Cushman Murphy.

American Museum of Natural History, N. Y., April 20th, 1926.

The above paragraphs are quoted from Dr. Murphy's introduction to Mr. Ashley's remarkable book, The Yankee Whaler, recently published by Houghton Mifflin Co. This volume contains reproductions of one hundred of his paintings, and is probably the most authoritative account of the American Whale Fishery that has been published.

TITLES OF PICTURES

- 1 The Old and the New
- 2 Two Ships, Close Hauled
- 3 Brig Frances A. Barstow
- 4 Before the Mast, Deck of Charles W. Morgan
- 5 Wanderer with Sails Clewed Up
- 6 Porpoises
- 7 Lowering Boats
- 8 Fog
- 9 Constitution
- 10 Amos Pegs and Melissa Trask
- 11 Greyhound at Merrill's Wharf
- 12 The Wanderer, Cruising for Whales
- 13 Vineyard Sound from Cuttyhunk Cliffs
- 14 Ranch in the Valley, Montara, California
- 15 Wanderer in Port V.
- 16 The Barrens, Cape Cod
- 17 Gray Day at Merrill's Wharf
- 18 Ship Niger, Full and By
- 19 Journey's End, Wreck of the Wanderer
- 20 Bark Stafford, Outward Bound
- 21 Harbor Mist
- 22 Outfitting Charles W. Morgan
- 23 Pounding Surf
- 24 A Quartering Wind, Clipper Ship Archer
- 25 Sail Loft
- 26 Small Town Street
- 27 Whale Ship
- 28 Charles W. Morgan at Round Hills
- 29 Nellie Bly Hauled Out, Menemsha Bight
- 30 Coopering Oil, The Morning Star

NEXT EXHIBITIONS

by CARLE J. BLENNER

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PAINTINGS OF MALLORCA by BERNHARD GUTMANN

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