

Waterline Dioramas

A MODELBUIDER'S ARTFORM

By Justin F. Camarata

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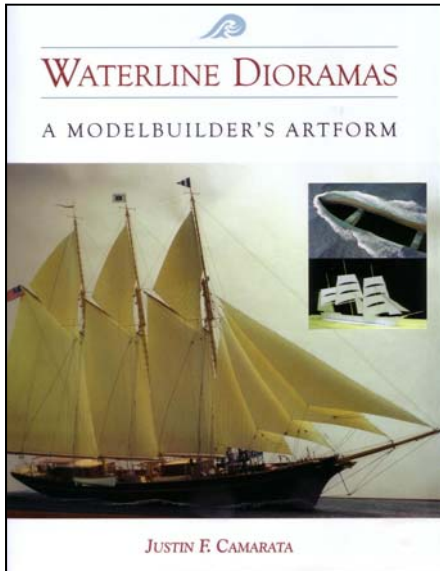
It's not very often that a book comes along that has the potential to join ship modeling classics authored by such individuals as Underhill, Longridge, Petrejus and Lee. Justin Camarata has done a masterful job of blending subtle art-like principles with technical know-how to present a remarkable treatise on the building of waterline dioramas.

Although this book discusses hull fabrication, rigging and sails, it is not intended to be a model ship building manual. These topics are presented in a clear concise manner, with an eye towards incorporating them into realistic dioramas. It is possible that you will find that many hints and tips can be incorporated into your own modeling procedures whether you are a miniaturist or prefer larger scales.

This is especially true concerning his technique for making sails.

Various options are discussed including a unique procedure Justin calls "refined overlap seams", which involves laminating paper panels with tissue paper. The tissue simulates a much thinner, realistic panel edge on the more visible side of the sail.

Without a doubt, what sets this book apart from other works on waterline dioramas is Camarata's thorough discussion of water. Twenty-five percent of the book is devoted to arguably the most important aspect of



this type of modeling.

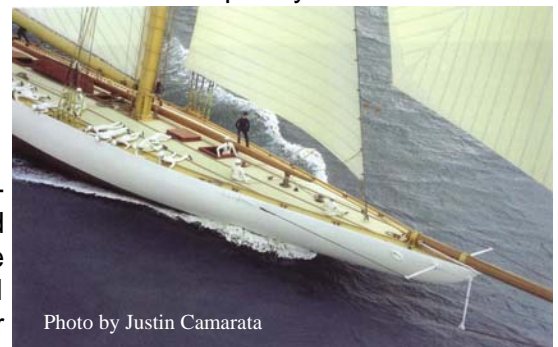
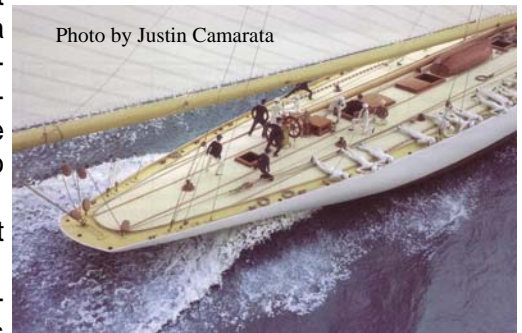
The first of two chapters is appropriately titled "Water: The Real Thing", and reflects the authors aeronautical engineering background as he describes how hull waves, wave patterns, and the interaction between the sea and a ship's hull can be mathematically determined. The author feels that understanding how full scale water behaves can't help but make for a more convincing diorama, and he proceeds to demonstrate it in the next chapter.

After reviewing various materials used by other successful dioramacists, Camarata discusses the importance of planning and visualization, and how principles practiced by artists and sculptors can be applied. He admits that he is always open to new ideas, and his choice of materials may be dependant on the state of the sea, and how his vessel will be portrayed. Many of his supplies were discovered after considerable trial and error, and include textured wallpaper, plaster, gesso, medium density fiber board, aluminum foil, and model railroad foliage. Justin's description of how these materials are blended into truly lifelike scenes is intriguing.

The final chapters are devoted to the creating of figures, and presentation. The latter topic describes how display cases can be designed to compliment the overall composition. This remarkable book closes out with an excellent portfolio of photos featuring the works of contemporary builders such as McCaffery, McNarry and Ronnberg.

Finally, this treatise should not be considered just for miniatur-

ists, since many of the models featured are as large as 3/16" scale. The wealth of knowledge Justin Camarata shares will allow you to raise your modeling to another level, whether you're experienced in this ship modeling artform, or just contemplating your first effort.



Bob Filipowski