

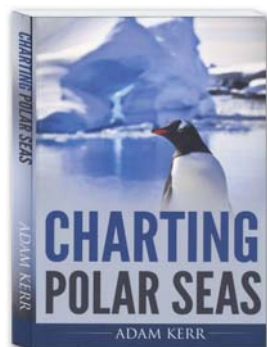
## General Information

### BOOK REVIEW

#### Charting Polar Seas

The Life, careers and interests of Adam Kerr—Chartmaker, sailor and fisherman

*Self published by Adam Kerr, ISBN 978-1-326-57316-4,*



Adam Kerr, previous editor of the International Hydrographic Review, Director at the International Hydrographic Bureau, Regional Director in the Canadian Hydrographic Service, Hydrographic Surveyor and Mariner, has committed his varied and inspiring career to paper in an autobiography that chronicles his early childhood, his progression through the Merchant Navy – in ships both ancient and modern, and his gravitation toward hydrography at an exciting time when innovation and new technology were waiting to be exploited.

As the title of his book suggests, Adam's practical hydrographic career took place mainly in polar regions, firstly in the south in the Falkland Islands and then to the Arctic and northern Canadian waters, but prior to that he had an extensive sea-going career that took him around the world and provided some interesting tales and insights, which he shares in his book.

Ashore, he continued, as he had done in the field, promoting and encouraging technical innovation and the use of the latest technology, both for improved data gathering and for the presentation of the results as digital nautical charts. It was no surprise that after he was elected as one of the three international Co-directors of the IHO Secretariat in Monaco, he led most aspects of the technical programme. It is where your reviewer first made contact with Adam – little knowing that many years later, I would occupy the same position.

Sprinkled through the text are Adam's own candid observations on various decisions and situations that have affected him and on personalities met.

Adam provides a tale that many of my generation will recall – starting from a traditional nautical and surveying background and then confronting changes occurring at an increasing pace. Rather than being daunted by it, Adam embraced it, such that he has left a lasting legacy for us all. It is good that he has taken the time to describe, from his perspective, how it all happened.

**Reviewed by Robert Ward**

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