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The Nautical Magazine first appeared in 1832, published monthly at the price of one shilling. It aimed to advance 'the safety of seamen', with a focus on the merchant marine, and a readership of professional seafarers. The founding editor, A.B. Becher (1796–1876), served for many years under the distinguished hydrographer Sir Francis Beaufort, and the magazine reflected Beaufort's interests by reporting on new charts, research on weather and the oceans, astronomy and navigation, and statistics on wrecks and the Lifeboat Institution. The content regularly included serialised accounts of voyages, descriptions of distant countries, notes on new shipping regulations, and discussion of the latest technologies. There were also reports on current affairs such as (during the Victorian period) the searches for Sir John Franklin's lost Arctic expedition, the Crimean War and the Suez Canal project. Astute editorial decisions ensured that the content mirrored the evolving concerns of readers, enabling 'the Nautical' to remain popular for nearly two centuries. It is a fascinating source of data, news and opinions for maritime, economic and social historians, genealogists, and shipping enthusiasts.

The Nautical Magazine and Naval Chronicle for 1856

The Nautical Magazine first appeared in 1832, and was published monthly well into the twenty-first century. It covers a wide range of subjects, including navigation, meteorology, technology and safety. An important resource for maritime historians, it also includes reports on military and scientific expeditions and on current affairs. The 1856 volume is still overshadowed by the aftermath of the disastrous Franklin expedition to navigate the North-West Passage; ironically, the Suez Canal proposed by de Lesseps, and the possibility of a Panama canal, also feature prominently. Another report discusses a projected telegraph to the Middle East and India, while an account of a voyage to the Crimea comments that 'Gallipoli ... has little to recommend it'. Other topics covered include the sailing times of Atlantic packets and steamers, the Pacific and Indian oceans, Sydney docks, Aboriginal culture and awards received by the editor in recognition of his invention of an 'artificial horizon'.

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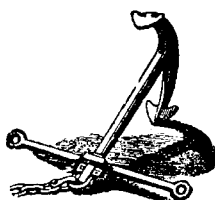
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