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The Nautical Magazine

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 for 1875

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 1875 volume is again dominated by reports on the Merchant Shipping Bill and debates on seaworthiness, with the editor continuing to prefer 'personal responsibility' to 'Plimsolecisms' and 'grandmotherly supervision' by the government. Serials focus on the economies of the British colonies, Atlantic shipping lines and emigration to South America, but fiction no longer features. Other topics include the opening of the Royal Naval Museum at Greenwich, innovations such as steel hawsers and desalination apparatus for producing drinking water, a proposal for generating power from wave action, and suggestions for using rats as a tasty and economical food source.

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