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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 1876

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 exceptionally long volume for 1876 devotes much space to the Merchant Shipping Act of that year, and to other legal matters including the recent history of legislation relating to merchant ships, rules for the loading of cargos, and the prevention of collisions at sea. It contains statistics on the year's shipbuilding activity, details of the fleets of several Atlantic shipping lines, and discussion of the recruitment, health and pensions of sailors. Other topics covered include the Suez Canal, Nares' Arctic expedition, the exhibition of scientific apparatus in Kensington, proposals for a Channel tunnel and railway, and solar steam generation.

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