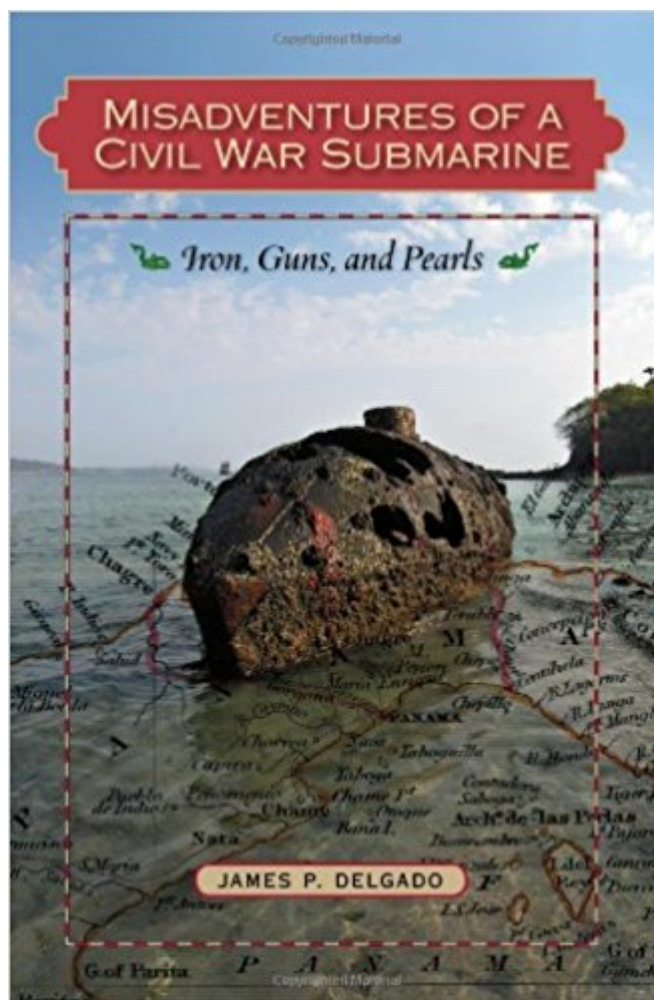


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Misadventures Of A Civil War Submarine: Iron, Guns, And Pearls (Ed Rachal Foundation Nautical Archaeology Series)



Synopsis

In 2001, while vacationing on Panama's Pacific coast, maritime archaeologist James P. Delgado came upon the hulk of a mysterious iron vessel, revealed by the ebbing tides in a small cove at Isla San Telmo. Local inquiries proved inconclusive: the wreck was described as everything from a sunken Japanese "suicide" submarine from World War II to a poison-laden "craft of death" that was responsible for the ruin of the pearl beds, decades before. His professional interest fully aroused, Delgado would go on to learn that the wreck was the remains of one of the first successful deep-diving submersibles, built in 1864 by Julius H. Kroehl, an innovator and entrepreneur who initially sought to develop his invention for military use during the Civil War. The craft's completion coming too late for that conflict, Kroehl subsequently convinced investors that it could be used to harvest pearls from the Pacific beds off Panama, in waters too deep for native pearl divers to reach. In *Misadventures of a Civil War Submarine*, Delgado chronicles the confluence of technological advancement, entrepreneurial aspiration, American capitalist ambition, and ignorance of the physiological effects of deep diving. As he details the layers of knowledge uncovered by his work both in archival sources and in the field excavation of Kroehl's ill-fated vessel, Delgado weaves the tangled threads of history into a compelling narrative. This finely crafted saga will fascinate and inform professional archaeologists and researchers, naval historians, students and aficionados of maritime exploration, and interested general readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In *Misadventures of a Civil War Submarine: Iron, Guns, and Pearls* Jim Delgado puts together a wonderfully entertaining and wide ranging foray into the past. From the timber merchants of East Prussia in the late 18th century, to mass media television in the fishing villages of the Archipiélago de las Perlas in the early 21st century, Jim steps lightly from World Systems Theory to "How in the world did that happen?" in a manner that is both engaging and informative. The incredible story of Julius Kroehl and the submarine that he built is both a story of people striving to do amazing things and a parable of technology exceeding our ability to understand its effects. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the transitions of the industrial revolution, and the unintended consequences of change in modernity."--David L. Conlin, Archaeologist/Chief, National Park Service Submerged Resources Center (David L. Conlin Archaeologist/Chief, National Park Service Submerged Resources Center)

James Delgado has produced another excellent book, a well-researched and clear account of a virtually unknown underwater craft, the *Marine Explorer*, a key link between the diving bell and the submarine. Based on evidence drawn from traditional archival and nautical archeological source, the study places the *Marine Explorer* in the context of mid-nineteenth-century technological innovation showing it to have been as important as the better-known H.L. Hunley and the *Intelligent Whale* in advancing the development of submersible vessels. Delgado also supplies an excellent analysis of an attempt to apply new technology to capitalizing on a natural resource in this case the harvesting of pearls that invites comparison to the mining industry of the same era."--James Bradford, professor at Texas A&M University (James Bradford Professor Texas A&M University 2012-01-09)

"A fascinating story of engineering, pioneering undersea exploration and America at the start of the Gilded Age. Delgado restores a forgotten chapter in submarine development to history."--Mark Lardas, *The Daily News* (Mark Lardas *The Daily News* 2012-04-01)

"...admirably researched...a fascinating story of engineering, pioneering undersea exploration, and America at the start of the Gilded Age..."--Mark Lardas, *Ships in Scale* (Mark Lardas *Ships in Scale* 2012-05-24)

"...truly an original work...Delgado's study is highly recommended for Civil War scholars and enthusiasts, as well as more general nautical history and technology students."--Civil War Books and Authors (Unknown Civil War Books and Authors 2012-05-07)

James P. Delgado, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club, is director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Heritage Program. He

is the author or editor of more than 30 books on maritime archaeology and lives in Maryland."--Steve Goddard (Steve Goddard Steve Goddard's History Wire: Where the Past Comes Alive 2012-08-27)"...Delgado's new book will help ensure that this fascinating bit of maritime history does not disappear...Misadventures of a Civil War Submarine is a very good read."--Andrew Jampoler, United States Naval Institute (Andrew Jampoler United States Naval Institute 2012-11-29)"This is the story of a submarine that was built at the close of the American Civil War...The author took some photos so that will be what remains as the sea will claim the submarine wreckage in the next few years."--The Lone Star Book Review (The Lone Star Book Review 2013-01-16)

James P. Delgado, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club, is director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Maritime Heritage Program. He has previously served as president of Texas A&M University's Institute of Nautical Archaeology, as executive director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, and as maritime historian for the US National Park Service. The author or editor of more than thirty books on maritime archaeology, he lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. Â

This is an interesting and well written book. It is interesting because of the subject, a submarine that almost no one knew existed with a surprisingly complex story to be told. And the story is interesting not just because it's about the submarine, its inventor and the story of its construction, use and eventually "misplacing", but also how the author found out about it and was able to interest people into researching and documenting this relic. And the book is well written too. While the author is an academic, he make the narrative easy to read for the general reader. And he also expands the tale to include more general information of the period in which the sub was build and used and I found that to be something that added to the story. Very highly recommended!

Being a retired archaeologist who has excavated several historic period, western american sites, the background research was excellent. The data as presented is sound with background research explained and data sources identified. In other words a professionally prepared document with enough information, asides and humor for the lay reader. I learned alot about Civil War Period maritime technology which has led me to explore the works of other authors' who have done work on submersibles of this period. Another kudos is the explanation of the problems, dangers, and frustrations of doing professional research in remote places. The health hazards of this time period

in the S.E. U.S. and in Central America adds to other works concerning death rates etc. of peoples who were not adapted to local disease vectors. U.S. imperialism was explained as a background source for the development of submarine technology and its potential for commercial use.

Excellent

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