

Book reviews

Magic Lantern Guide Nikon D70

by Simon Stafford

It seems odd that there should be a demand for a book about the Nikon D70 when it is already provided with a comprehensive instruction manual at the time of purchase.

However, this 240 page 5 x 7.5" paperback takes the instruction much further with expanded explanations of all of the camera's functions as well as hundreds of very useful hints and suggestions based on practical experience.

I particularly liked the section on the Custom Setup capabilities. These settings allow you to control the camera to your own requirements and, whilst they are dealt with in detail in the camera's manual, the Magic Lantern goes into much more detail and provides logical suggestion on each of the 25 custom settings.

There is a comprehensive section on Manual and i-TTL flash photography which I found very informative for my land photography as I use the i-TTL almost exclusively. Underwater, however, I feel much more comfortable with Manual flash exposure.



Finally there is a good section about digital images in general and an especially useful one about working with digital images and the 'workflow'. This offers very practical advice on the organisation needed to work with your work as there is much more to it compared to film images.

The Magic Lantern guide picks up where the camera's instruction manual leaves off and provides a level of information which will definitely help you understand this amazing camera more and almost certainly improve your images.

Magic Lantern guides are published by www.larkbooks.com

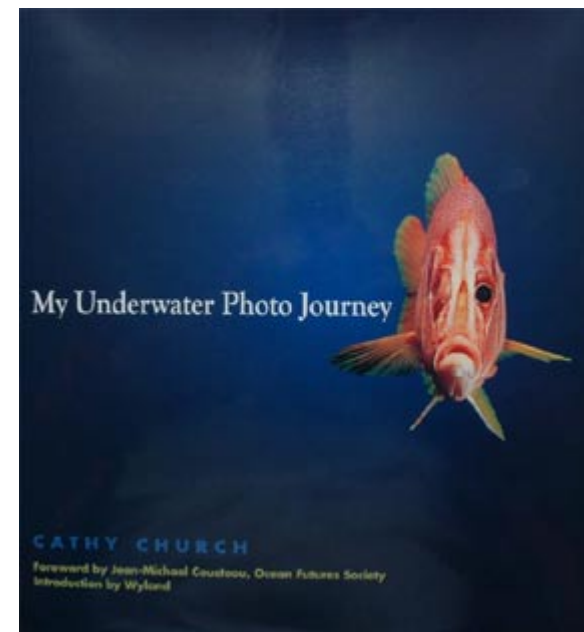
My Underwater Photo Journey by Cathy Church

Cathy Church is without doubt an icon in underwater photography who has devoted the majority of her life teaching others how to improve their shots either in live courses or in any one of her four books on the subject.

In the course of her career I suspect the majority of her shots were taken with tuition in mind and put to good use imparting encouragement and enlightenment to her students. This book, however, as the title suggests, is more about the shots Cathy takes for herself.

Cathy's back yard for the last 15 years has been the Caymans and a lots of the images in this book were taken there. Sure there's other international destinations like the Solomons, Maldives, Papua New Guinea etc but for me it is the Caribbean shots are the highlight of this book. I've heard so many underwater photographers belittle the area but Cathy's shots are a confirmation that it is far from barren.

This is a book you can read through or dip into as each image stands up on its own with a short caption and camera details. As I went through this book I was trying to



think just what it was that makes it so different and then I realised that I was getting a beautiful sense of calm from nearly all the images. They are beautifully lit, sympathetically composed and very consistent in their quality.

There are just over 140 images in this 11" x 10" book which costs \$39.95 (+ shipping) and they are available direct from www.cathychurch.com

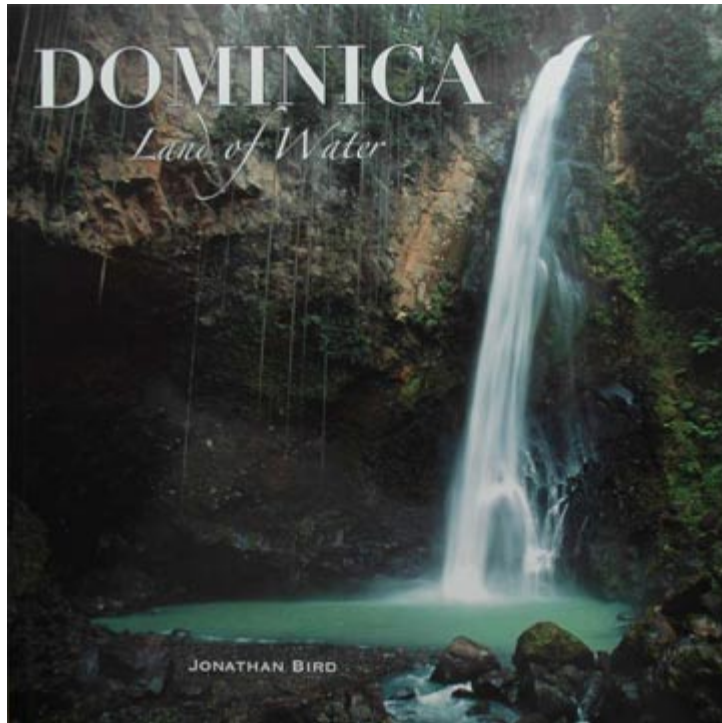
Dominica Land of water by Jonathan Bird

This 9" x 9" 96 page book is a visual celebration of the natural world of Dominica.

Having visited the island in 2002 I spent a week sampling the delights of this amazing island both above and below the water but obviously a week is not long enough to capture all the elements on film.

Jonathan Bird's book "Dominica - Land of water" is the result of many trips to the island and the images he has captured are excellent. Half the book is surface shots and half underwater and it confirms that Dominica is one of those rare places where both habitats are pristine. The lush tropical rain forests compete with the dazzling underwater colours to provide a complete natural package.

For anyone who has visited Dominica this book is the ideal

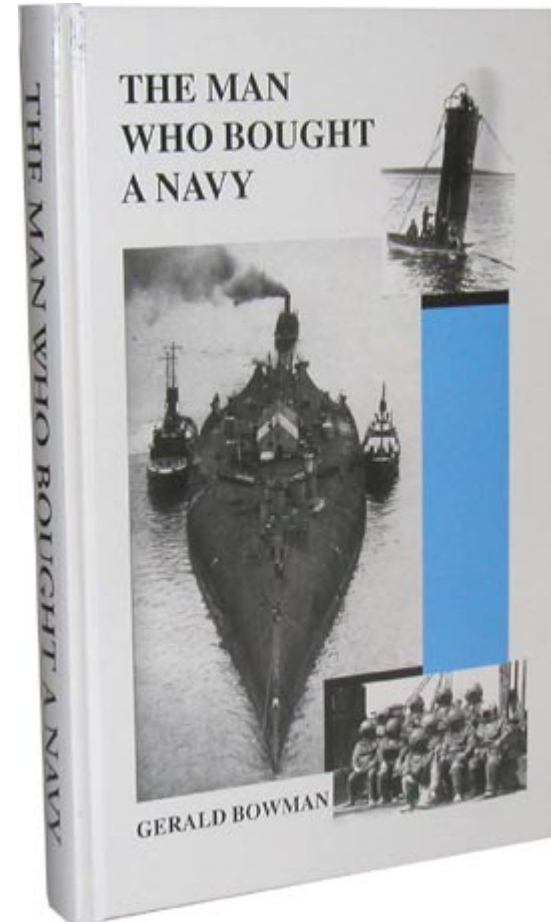


reminder and for those who have yet to visit this book confirms it should be the next place you should go.

Copies cost \$19.95 and are available at www.jonathanbird.net

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The Man who bought a Navy



Pieced together after much research and told for the first time in this autobiography is the astounding story of what is regarded as the greatest achievement in the history of marine salvage - the raising of the German Fleet at Scapa Flow.

The Man who bought a Navy is 249 pages and has over 100 photographs.

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