



## Vasa: A Swedish Warship

By Frederick M. Hocker

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Vasa was the most modern warship imaginable in 1628. Her ability for fast and aggressive sailing, the multiple gun deck and the heavy, custom-made guns were innovations. She was meant to be a key asset for Sweden in a bid for power in Northern Europe. But as with most brilliant innovations there are also failures, and the ship sank on her maiden voyage, a spectacular, costly and embarrassing fiasco.

This book contains new information about the ship and the people who built and sailed it. And then there's the story of the discovery of the wreck and its challenging and exciting recovery. The dramatic story-telling is backed up by ground-breaking research, as Fred Hocker unfolds new facts that have now been brought to light.

The 17th-century was an era of visual symbols. Photographs and historical reconstructions have been made especially for this book. Important themes are shown on double-page spreads and there is a fold-out guide to Vasa's rich ornamentation - a powerful symbolic reference to the glory of the Swedish king.

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## **Vasa: A Swedish Warship** By Frederick M. Hocker **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #614029 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Medstroms Bokforlag
- Published on: 2011-11-10
- Released on: 2012-01-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.50" h x 8.50" w x .75" l, 2.60 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 212 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Each page is beautifully illustrated with color photographs and images of the artifacts, places, people, and documents....All the visual material reinforces and enhances the narrative to provide readers with a more comprehensive understanding of this warship and her importance in history.

Fred Hocker, an archaeologist and historian, has written a compelling and riveting account of this famous warship. He also spins a fabulous story that brings to life the seventeenth century and the people who built, crewed, and raised the *Vasa*. He dispels some of the myths that have surfaced over the years as to why she sank, and he explains how guns were cast and battles were fought in this period of history. Hocker understands his principal audience, for his explanations on various aspects of ships and shipbuilding are crisp, clear, and succinct so the general layman can quickly grasp the content. As readers absorb the wealth of material found within the pages of this book, they gain a better understanding of the importance of the *Vasa* and a king who understood how naval warfare would change long before those alterations occurred.<sup>1</sup> (Cindy Vallar *Pirates and Privateers*, 2012)

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