

## THE ART OF LIVING UNDERWATER

Martin Triewald  
Published by The Historical Diving Society ([www.thehds.com](http://www.thehds.com))  
£24.00



VISIONS OF an air conditioned, underwater house with all mod-cons and brightly coloured tropical fish drifting by the reinforced glass windows, might give modern reality to the title.

However the book covers an area that may seem a little more mundane, but at its time was equally as revolutionary - wreck diving 400 hundred years ago or more.

Marten Triewald, the author, was a very enterprising Swede, who building on the work of his mentor the famous Edmond Halley and others during a long period in England, conquered the depths with his own improved system. Scottish origins include work by Professor G. Sinclair of Edinburgh in 1672 – who attributes the earlier invention of the diving bell to another Scot named Melgim. An even more basic version of a bell was said to have recovered vessel fragments from the sound of Mull in 1665 after 27 years immersion, (were these really pieces of our famed Spanish Galleon?).

The book has, amongst considerable historical detail, excellent engravings that show the 'bell-shaped contrivances', capable of holding as many as five men and supplying and replenishing them with weighted barrels of air lowered from the surface. Brave men indeed, but there are interesting stories of genuine salvage operations, among them the salvaging of the *Vasa*, one of Sweden's greatest marine relics, completed as recently as the 20th century.

Triewald also demonstrates the

many effects of pressure and in doing so refers to Boyle's Laws, although at that time knowledge of the 'bends' had not arrived. His organisational abilities were such as to allow him to be granted the premier salvage rights around the Swedish coasts by the reigning monarch.

This resulted in a coastguard system, which became the model for Europe. The regulations demanded that a complete set of salvage gear had to be set up at every port and even vulnerable coastal points.

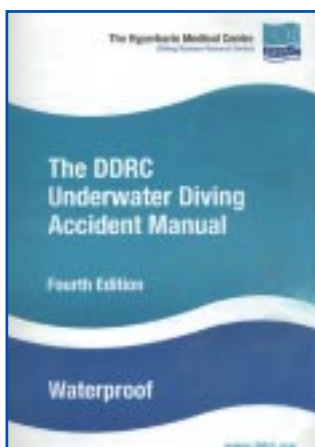
This equipment profusely illustrated and described looks at first sight like the oversized tools of a medieval torture chamber. However it apparently did an effective job in ripping apart decks; recovering cargoes and even raising the ships of the time. Where the water was murky, candle lamps were provided. No reference is made to goggles and we are left to ponder exactly how the diver saw anything at 60 feet or more. Compare this with the modern North Sea diving bell and the man on the 'umbilical' – that's progress!

This book makes fascinating reading and establishes Triewald's place in diving history, along with the Deans, Haldane, Robert Davis, Cousteau and so many others who gave some reality to the 'Art of Living Under Water'.

**ALAN HUBBARD**

## THE DDRC UNDERWATER DIVING ACCIDENT MANUAL (Fourth Edition)

Available from Aquapress ([www.aquapress.co.uk](http://www.aquapress.co.uk)) £8.50



THIS LATEST reference book from DDRC provides a comprehensive range of diving medical advice. Now in its fourth edition and updated with latest medical guidance, the book is a designed for use in diver training, and

emergency situations alike. The manual begins with the familiar DDRC Accident Management Flowchart; the content of which all divers should be aware of.

Basic, but crucial guidance relating to treatment of divers is highlighted in the introduction which also gives some additional background detail and contact numbers for emergency personnel.

Topics covered in the manual include the treatment of decompression illness, hypothermia, near drowning, nitrogen narcosis, shock, burst lung, oxygen poisoning, and several more.

It is certainly not a book to read from cover to cover, but I've had it sitting on my coffee table for a month now before I found the time to write this review. I found myself picking it up regularly and reading a couple of random pages.

I have to say I've learned quite a few new things, and brushed up on some previous knowledge from my earlier diving days. Perhaps this is how the book should be read under 'normal'

circumstances, whilst also remaining as an emergency guide in the first aid box.

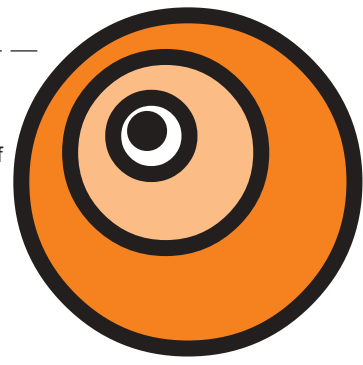
In addition to comprehensive advice relating to diving injuries, the manual also contains additional information and checklists for divers, boat users.

The book comes in a convenient A5 size and is spiral bound. Most importantly, it is entirely waterproof so can be kept handy with your dive kit, perhaps in your club or personal first aid box or oxygen kit. I would, however, be a bit worried if I spotted my dive buddy reading the book on our deco stop!

Perhaps future editions of the book should be produced in colour and have indexing tabs to allow for ease of reading and location of chapters in stressful situations.

Overall, I suggest this book should form an important part of every club or divers kit and not just be left to sit in the emergency first aid box, but to be read to keep the mind fresh of emergency treatments."

**ANDY MURRAY**



ARMCHAIR DIVER

