

VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #41

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

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VWOA Director Miles D. MacMahon PhD

With the news of Bernie Flatow becoming an SK, the VWOA Board of Directors unanimously elected Miles D. MacMahon as a VWOA Director to serve Bernie's remaining term for the years of 2008 and 2009.

We welcome Miles back to our Board of Directors.

As one of his first actions as VWOA Director was his notification that a half

hour program about the Merchant Marine and WW2 is NOW on the NJN Website of the New Jersey

Public Television and Radio throughout the month of November.

This Web Site includes a project undertaken by Miles D. MacMahon, (a DAR Member as well as a VWOA Vice President in 2005), who Produced and Directed this video for the Dennis A. Roland Chapter-AMMV and which resulted in a DVD entitled "Victory in the SeaLanes" which was Sponsored, Credited and presented to the Dennis A. Roland Chapter-AMMV and is now shown on the NJN website as part of Merchant Marine History. Go to the URL in the box below:

<http://www.njn.net/television/specials/war/oralhistories/victoryinthesealanes.html>

If the Video does not start up immediately, your computer may be requesting your permission to load Active X, if so, give your one time permission to view by clicking the Yellow message band above your viewing screen on your Desktop.

WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2008

Subject: Random House report on
Thunderstruck

A true story of love, murder, and the end of the world's "great hush"

In *Thunderstruck*, Erik Larson tells the interwoven stories of two men — Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of a seemingly supernatural means of communication—whose lives intersect during one of the greatest criminal chases of all time.

Set in Edwardian London and on the stormy coasts of Cornwall, Cape Cod, and Nova Scotia, *Thunderstruck* evokes the dynamism of those years when great shipping companies competed to build the biggest, fastest ocean liners, scientific advances dazzled the public with visions of a world transformed, and the rich outdid one another with ostentatious displays of wealth. Against this background, Marconi races against incredible odds and relentless skepticism to perfect his invention: the wireless, a

prime catalyst for the emergence of the world we know today. Meanwhile, Crippen, "the kindest of men," nearly commits the perfect crime.

With his superb narrative skills, Erik Larson guides these parallel narratives toward a relentlessly suspenseful meeting on the waters of the North Atlantic. Along the way, he tells of a sad and tragic love affair that was described on the front pages of newspapers around the world, a chief inspector who found himself strangely sympathetic to the killer and his lover, and a driven and compelling inventor who transformed the way we communicate.

Thunderstruck presents a vibrant portrait of an era of séances, science, and fog, inhabited by inventors, magicians, and Scotland Yard detectives, all presided over by the amiable and fun-loving Edward VII as the world slid inevitably toward the first great war of the twentieth century. Gripping from the first page, and rich with fascinating detail about the time, the people, and the new inventions that connect and divide us, *Thunderstruck* is splendid narrative history from a master of the form.

About the Author

Erik Larson is the bestselling author of the National Book Award finalist and Edgar Award-winning *The Devil in the White City*. He lives in Seattle with his wife, three daughters, and a dog named Molly.