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E. C. Coleman

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fashion, with the peculiarities in titles and insignia explained in plain language. The illustrations--a mixture of period images, color photos and very high-quality color illustrations--complete an excellent work that is an absolute must for the collector and researcher alike.

For over a century and a half, since the Uniform Regulations of 1856 were introduced, identification of rank among officers in the Royal Navy, its branches and its reserves has not been restricted to a single, or even small number, of insignia. Rank may be seen on jacket cuffs, on shoulder badges, on shoulder boards and on epaulettes. It may be seen on swords and buttons, and in the manner in which buttons are worn. Cap peaks indicate rank, as do collars, cocked hat ornaments and cuff slashes. Rank insignia varies just as much between officers of similar rank. Cap badges and variants of gold lace stripes divide Executive from Civil branches, and from the Royal Navy and its reserves. Civil branches were further divided, and some remain so to this day, by the addition of color between the gold lace stripes. For the first time the complete range of Royal Navy Officers' insignia may be seen and studied in a single, comprehensive guide. The badges, buttons, stripes, wings and stars are catalogued separately in order of rank and date of introduction. Where possible, actual examples are used, and where not, an accurate as possible reproduction is offered. In addition, original photographs show the insignia being worn over the past 150 years.

About the Author Ernest C. Coleman entered the Royal Navy as a 'Junior', and left thirty-six years later as a Lieutenant. A life-long student of the Royal Navy's history, he has published several books on the subject including a two-volume history of the Royal Navy in polar exploration. Ernest has always had a fascination with the Royal Navy's insignia. In this book he has pulled together all the research he has done as the first of a trilogy of works covering officers, ratings, and associated branches of the services. He is a resident of Lincolnshire, England.