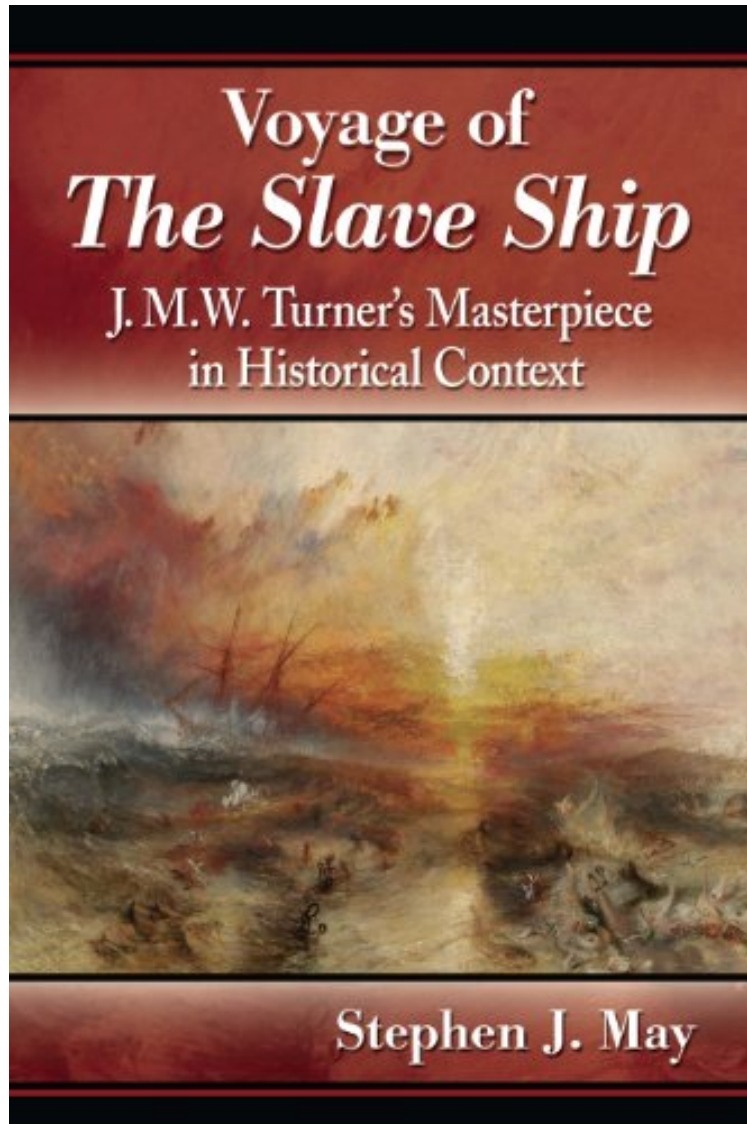


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## Voyage of The Slave Ship: J.M.W. Turners's Masterpiece in Historical Context

*Stephen J. May*

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**Stephen J. May : Voyage of The Slave Ship: J.M.W. Turners's Masterpiece in Historical Context** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voyage of The Slave Ship: J.M.W. Turners's Masterpiece in Historical Context:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Daniel S.Comprehensive. Some facts at odds with other sources. Not sure who is correct. Will do further research.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy cdwExcellent review of slavery in English ships motivating the Turner masterpiece. Turners biography added

depth to his artistic talents. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Are you familiar with the Zong incident? Well you should be. By Shuffy2 What do you know about 'Slavers Throwing overboard the Dead and Dying—Typhoon coming on (The Slave Ship)' by J.M.W. Turner? Are you familiar with the Zong incident? Well you should be. The book encompasses more than just Turner's Slave Ship, in fact the title is very limiting to the overall scope of the work. It is broken into nine chapters: Turner's life, The Middle Passage, Thomas Clarkson (and Wilberforce, Sharp, etc), the politics, Turner's works involving water, written words that inspired him, Ruskin's support, where the painting ended up, and an epilogue dedicated to Ruskin. It includes some black and white sketches of important individuals that played a role in British Abolition as well as a few color plates of several of Turner's works. Turner himself did not play a role in the abolition movement other than the one painting and the short verse he included with the 1840 exhibition: Aloft all hands, strike the top-mast and belay: Yon angry setting sun and fierce-edged clouds Declare the Typhoon's coming Before it sweep your deck, throw overboard The dead and dying—ner—er heed their chains. Hope! Hope! Fallacious hope! Where is the market now? My Master's thesis was inspired by this painting (and Jane Austen's Mansfield Park), 'British Abolition and Art', I am very familiar with this particular work and the artist so I was excited to receive a copy of the book. The book jumped around a bit to me and repeated ideas/information from previous chapters. The outline of the book looks great in theory but about half way through it was hard to keep focused. Much of the information presented is significant but some irrelevant tid-bits draw attention away from what is important in my eyes. Overall, I am still glad I read it.

Set against the backdrop of the Atlantic slave trade, this book traces the development, exhibition and final disposition of one of J.M.W. Turner's greatest and most memorable paintings. Queen Victoria's reign (1837–1901) in Great Britain produced unprecedented wealth and luxury. For artists and writers this period was particularly noteworthy in that it gave them the opportunity to both praise their country and criticize its overreaching ambition. At the forefront of these artists and writers were men like J.M.W. Turner, Dickens, Thackeray, Tennyson, and John Ruskin, who created some of the most enduring works of art while exposing many of the social evils of their native land. The book also analyzes the man behind the painting. Aloof, gruff and mysterious, Turner resisted success. He worked as a solitary artist, traveling to Europe, sketching towns along the way, studying nature, and transferring his experiences to finished paintings upon his return to London. The son of a barber, he grew up in London and experienced many of the social issues of the age: slavery and freedom, poverty in the slums, monarchy and democracy, stability and anarchy. He was a poet of nature and its innumerable mysteries.

an excellent biography of a complex, influential, British artist and a pleurably satisfying read The Northern Mariner; May's fascinating study challenges us to consider the impact and value of the fine arts in our appreciation of maritime heritage Sea History; May does an exceedingly thorough job of explaining and examining everyone who had any influence on the fate of the painting Nautical Research Journal." "an excellent biography of a complex, influential, British artist and a pleurably satisfying read" --The Northern Mariner; "May's fascinating study challenges us to consider the impact and value of the fine arts in our appreciation of maritime heritage" --Sea History; "May does an exceedingly thorough job of explaining and examining everyone who had any influence on the fate of the painting" --Nautical Research Journal. About the Author A former university professor, Stephen J. May is now an independent arts historian and biographer. The author of seven other books and many journal articles, he also serves as a guest curator at leading art institutions. He lives in Layton, Utah.