

Toby Chance is James Chance's great-great-grandson and the grandson of Sir Hugh Chance, the last Chairman of an independent Chance Brothers. He has spent the past three years researching his family's history.

Peter Williams is the author of the bestselling book *Beacon on the Rock* (2001). He has served at sea and was the founder of the lighthouse enthusiast magazine *Leading Lights*, which he continues to work on as consultant editor. Peter maintains a personal link with lighthouses as a Trinity House attendant for a Welsh lighthouse, which still uses a first order Chance lens, fitted in 1868.

Other related New Holland titles include:

Coastal Walks Around Britain

Andrew McCloy, photography by Stephen Whitehorne
This book contains 15 two- to three-day walks around Britain's most famous coastal paths, exploring the varied delights of Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters, the Scottish islands of Skye and Arran and the Gower peninsula among other stunning locations.

ISBN: 978 1 84773 127 2 Paperback £12.99

New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd
Garfield House
86-88 Edgware Road
London
W2 2EA

www.newhollandpublishers.com

The Great Exhibition, Crystal Palace, 1851: James Chance, of the glass-making firm Chance Brothers, is nervously showcasing a new lens design that, unknown to him, will revolutionise lighthouse production, propel his family business into a position of world leadership, save countless lives and have far-reaching consequences for trade, empire and the map of the world.

This is where *Lighthouses* begins. The true-life story that follows is of one man and his family's unexpected role in an exciting race to perfect this technology, against European rivals and colleagues, as they strive to regain for Britain the leadership position she had lost to the French in the 1820s. With support from such illustrious personages as Sir David Brewster and Michael Faraday, Chance Brothers' lenses helped light shores around the globe – from the Clipper path in the Far East to the New World Emigrant route.

This fascinating story places James Chance and the Chance Brothers firm against the backdrop of a stage on which lighthouse manufacture was transformed from a craft into a scientific, high-precision industry. As a tool for globalization, and with immense strategic and economic value, lighthouses helped to establish a network of communications that transformed the trade maps of countries and empires.

HISTORY

ISBN 978-1-84773-174-6



9 781847 731746

www.newhollandpublishers.com

Lighthouses

The Race to Illuminate The World

CHANCE AND WILLIAMS



Lighthouses



The Race to Illuminate The World



TOBY CHANCE AND PETER WILLIAMS

Lighthouses have always fascinated people for the often incredible feats of engineering and building skill involved in their construction, the romance of their association with shipwrecks, disaster and tales of heroism, the loneliness and dedication of the lighthouse keepers, and the beauty of their locations. But writers and historians have hitherto neglected the story of the very reason for their existence – the bright light that guides mariners and travellers alike to safety.

In this book, Toby Chance and Peter Williams explain how, in the enthusiasm and ambition of the Victorian age, great steps forward were made by men with the vision, technical skill and scientific ability to take on the English lighthouse authorities and drag lighthouse illumination out of the dark ages. Theirs is a story of self-confidence and prejudice, competition and collaboration, trial and error. It is peopled by rivals, friends, mavericks and innovators, as well as authorities that were resistant to change and reluctant to adopt new technologies.

In a time when globalization became a reality for local firms across the world and empires opened up new corners of the globe to Western consciousness, lighthouses were an indispensable tool, ensuring the safe transport of goods and people. James Chance, together with his family firm Chance Brothers, was at the centre of that expanding world.

£17.99