

Press information

Hamburg, September 2019



Walter König

JOHANNES HOLST – PAINTER OF THE SEA

Hardback with dust jacket • 29.5 x 26 cm 456 pages • 1,400 Holst paintings in colour Fourth expanded edition

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- Large catalogue of works by the popular painter of the sea
- New chapters on Johannes Holst's biography, mentors and admirers
- A rich treasure trove for collectors and fans of maritime painting

If, when you look at a painting, you can "see" the wind and "feel" the swell of the sea, if ewers, yachts and clippers are rendered with such attention to detail that you could rig up a sailing ship based on them, you're probably looking at a picture by Johannes Holst. His vivid, harmoniously composed pictures are without rival in German maritime art. They include world-famous paintings depicting windjammers off the coast of Cape Horn, gripping regatta scenes and cutters from the Elbe peninsula.

The genius of Altenwerder (1880–1965) left behind an impressive oeuvre that until now had only been incompletely documented. Over the course of seven decades, he produced over three thousand paintings with motifs from his homeland, the fishing industry on the Elbe and, especially, the great windjammer era. However, the precise number of paintings will remain a mystery, since he did not keep a list of his works.

Walter König, born like Holst in Altenwerder, was familiar with the painter, life as a fisherman on the Elbe and shipping from a young age. He has been studying the life and work of Johannes Holst for decades. For the fourth edition of his book *Johannes Holst – Painter of the Sea*, König has discovered and documented 470 new Holst paintings.

The fourth edition brings together 1,400 Holst paintings in a catalogue of his works. The pictures are accompanied by explanations and key facts. The informative yet entertaining text section describes Holst's creative output and the ups and downs of his life, supplemented by seven guest contributions by expert authors. Never before has it been possible to come so close to the work and personality of Johannes Holst.

About the author

Walter König, born 1935, appears to have the maritime world of wind and waves in his blood. He is descended from fishermen, shipwrights and dockmasters who lived on the Elbe islands of Finkenwerder and Altenwerder. His grandfather, a true Cape Horner, sailed around Cape Horn in 1895 in a Laeisz ship and worked at Blohm+Voss on the building of the *Peking*, a historic vessel that will soon be returning to Hamburg.

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König completed an apprenticeship at a Hamburg export company, which then sent him to Africa for four years. He spent most of his working life travelling across all five continents marketing surgical instruments. Today, he lives in Tuttlingen, near Lake Constance. This book is his masterpiece, packed with new discoveries about the fascinating world of seafaring and maritime painting.

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