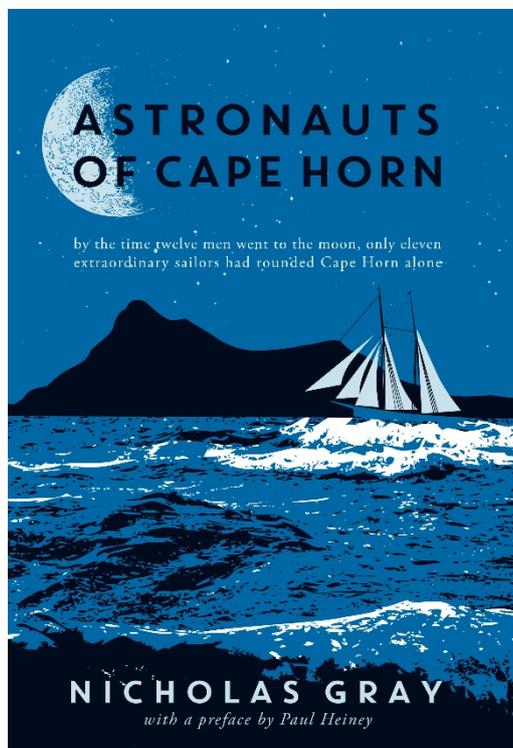




THE CONRAD PRESS



ASTRONAUTS OF CAPE HORN

by Nicholas Gray

Published by the Conrad Press

RRP: £16.99

'One famous astronaut spoke of 'a small step for man, one great leap for mankind'. For those who go to sea, rather than into space, there's no greater step than rounding the Horn. '

(From the preface by Paul Heiney)

The Conrad Press is proud to publish this intriguing and highly original story from Nicholas Gray, the author of *Last Voyages*. *Astronauts of Cape Horn* tells the tale of the only eleven men who had sailed alone around and south of Cape Horn by the time that twelve astronauts, the only men to have done so, stood on the surface of the moon.

A launch of the book will be held at the Southampton Boat Show on Friday 21 September 2018 at 2.00 p.m. on ChartCo's stand J052.

Publication is timed to coincide with the early stages of the 50th Anniversary re-run of the *Sunday Times* Golden Globe Non-Stop Single-Handed Round the World Yacht Race which started with thirteen entrants in July of this year, is currently under way and will end in 2019. In the original race, nine single-handed sailors attempted to sail round Cape Horn alone but only one man, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, finished the race (and became the first man ever to sail solo around the world without stopping) but three other competitors did eventually make it alone past the Horn. These four joined seven

other lone sailors who had earlier sailed south of the Cape, to become the eleven Cape Horn astronauts.

Next year, 2019, is also the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing.

This dramatic and exciting book, written so vividly you can feel the seas spray on your face and taste the salt on your lips, tells the story of the lives of these eleven men and their extraordinary sailing exploits and compares and contrasts their voyages with what the space astronauts achieved.

To lead into the stories of the eleven sailors' lives, the author tells of the voyages of the pioneers who first circumnavigated the world alone and who, although not rounding Cape Horn, proved it was possible for lone sailors in small boats to safely navigate the waters of the great Southern Ocean.

Sailors whose lives and voyages are described include Joshua Slocum, Alain Gerbault, Vito Dumas, Bill Nance, Edward Allcard, Bernard Moitessier, Nigel Tetley and of course the four sailing knights, Sir Francis Chichester, Sir Alec Rose, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Sir Chay Blyth.

Nicholas Gray has unearthed much new information on the lives of the sailors and on their exploits, some of it never published before. He looks at some of the voyages in a new light and has cast an informed and sometimes critical eye on these happenings from 50 years ago or longer but always acknowledging the exceptional achievements of these men.

Even today, only about 200 sailors have sailed solo around Cape Horn and the other great Capes in the Southern Ocean, compared to almost 700 astronauts who have been shot into space.

Published as a hardback and eBook on 1st September 2018, *Astronauts of Cape Horn* is available to buy from all good bookshops, websites, chandlers and direct from www.theconradpress.com

About the Author

Nicholas Gray is a retired solicitor who has sailed all his life and has owned 14 boats. He has raced trimarans two-handed and has competed in the AZAB and Round Britain and Ireland Races. As well as having a career in the law he has

worked in merchant banking and in the petroleum industry. He has had an interest in a sailmaking company and has owned a boatyard specialising in the restoration of classic wooden boats. He divides his time between Kent and south west France.

Astronauts of Cape Horn is his second book. His first was the well received *Last Voyages*, published by Fernhurst Books in 2017

About the Conrad Press

The Conrad Press was founded in December 2015 by author and literary agent James Essinger. It publishes fiction, memoirs and narrative non-fiction.

James says: 'The Conrad Press is very proud to be publishing *Astronauts of Cape Horn*, a remarkable true story about some of the world's greatest maritime heroes, written by Nicholas Gray, a truly outstanding writer with a passion for the sea.'

James Essinger

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