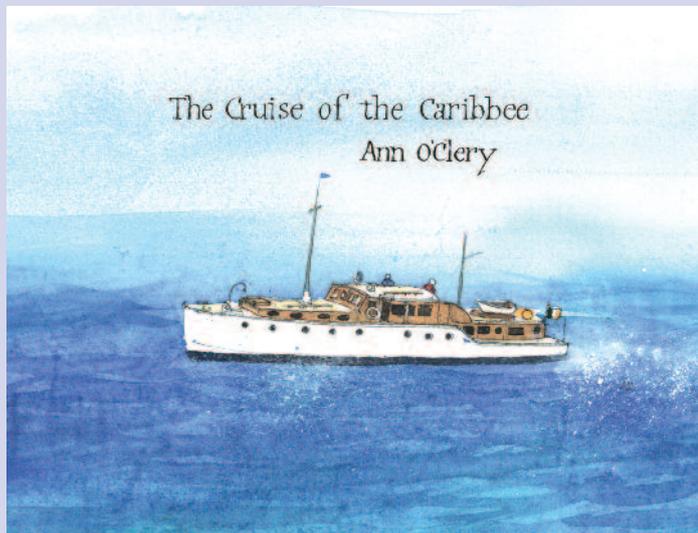


# THE CRUISE OF THE CARIBBEE

by Ann O'Clery



This beautifully illustrated memoir documents a cruise taken by the O'Clery family in 1957 on their motor yacht called the *Caribbee*. Although this journey through the inland waterways of France took place over fifty years ago the author recreated the event with the help of the ship's log, cine film and her own visual diary. The adventure began when the author's father Dermot bought a retired RAF World War II air sea rescue launch and had it adapted at Malahide Yacht Club to suit the family's needs. The boat was delivered to Le Harve where the crew of seven began their expedition.

Text and image play an equal role in the narration of this story. Each page is designed around the illustration and each image is drawn from a sea to land perspective. The water colour pictures are deceptively simple as the outline is sketched economically in ink and fleshed out in colour. In many of the forty seven pages the hand written text frequently occupies an expanse of water- giving the viewer a navigational position.

The author has provided a map to guide us on our journey from Le Harve to Marseille and although each page contains about three or four sentences, weather and navigational concerns form a key part of the

narrative. Like all good cruises time plays a secondary role and the reader only gains an occasional glimpse of the duration of the trip when Ann O'Clery mentions that they spent three days in Rouen and almost a month in Cannes. Surprisingly there is little or no information



about the crew, their number or age profile and the reader had to rely on a drawing that suggests the ship's compliment consisted of two adults and five children. Locks, viaducts, quaysides and bridges form the main pictorial focus, and the family's obsession with all things maritime becomes clear: in Paris they visited the Marine Museum and during their stay in Cannes they hired a car and visited 'every harbour between Marseille and Monte Carlo'.

Captain Dermot's knowledge of his craft becomes evident when the *Caribbee* reached the summit of the Bourgogne canal having travelled down one hundred and fifty miles of waterway and ventured through seventy six locks to be informed by the navigational authorities that their vessel was too high and too wide to fit into the tunnel. 'We went through the long dark tunnel with the aid of the

searchlight without touching with a matter of centimetres clearance'

*The Cruise of the Caribbee* is an intriguing read for anyone with an interest in boating and it is of particular interest to anyone who has participated in boating abroad. Having taken a cruise on the Canal du Midi some years ago I was fascinated by the pre-European Union need to pass through customs and wondered at the anomaly of 'bonded fuel'. This enigmatic little book would add style to any ship's salon.

**Maebh O'Regan**

## *The Cruise of the Caribbee*

can be ordered from [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com).

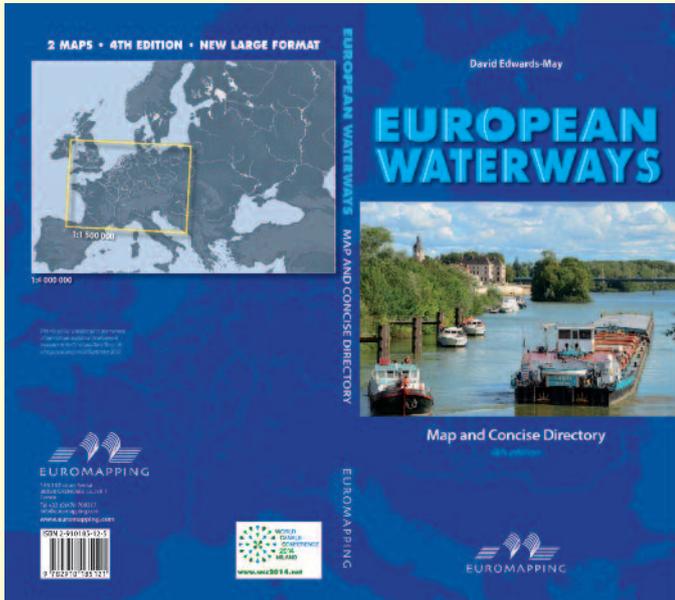
It is listed under bookstore/travel. Type in the title to see a preview.

Click on 'buy' for more info. They ship to most countries. Soft cover €33.14, Hardcover €44.71, ebook: Apple ipad format €6.99

**Ann O'Clery** was born in Dublin, trained as an architect and is now working as a calligrapher and watercolour painter. As a student she spent the summer holidays on the Shannon and Inland Waterways on the family boat.

Her father Dermot O'Clery was President of IWAI from 1962-66. The trip to France in 1957 with *Caribbee* was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, during which Ann kept the 'Ship's Log' and made innumerable sketches of the trip.

# EUROPEAN WATERWAYS – Map and Concise Directory



This publication is along the same lines but it covers all the waterways in Europe albeit at a larger scale. One side of the 1210x870mm map covers the pretty much whole of Europe from Ireland to the Caspian Sea and from Scandinavia to the south of Sicily at a scale of 1:4,000,000. The other side covers the central part of that area in more detail at a scale of 1:1,500,000 with an even more detailed insert for the Netherlands and a couple of other smaller areas.

inclined planes though at the large scales inevitably some detail is omitted. Waterways that are currently un-navigable are shown along with those where restoration is planned or in progress.

The concise directory is a separate 54 page booklet which gives an overview of the navigations in each country. Contact details are given for organisations like navigation authorities and voluntary bodies like IWAI. The directory includes further map extracts to highlight specific areas of interest and some additional supporting information.

Published as recently as last December, this is the 4th edition of the Map and Directory. It is a very useful tool for anyone planning trips on or to canals or waterways in Europe and as a very handy reference for understanding the bigger picture of inland navigation outside our small corner of the world.

The European Waterways Map and Concise Directory by David Edwards-May can be ordered directly from Euromapping at [www.euromapping.com](http://www.euromapping.com) price €19.00.

**Colin Becker**

Most IWAI members will be familiar with the Euromapping map of Ireland's Waterways that appears on some of the association's literature and is also available in larger format as a poster or as a folded map with accompanying directory.

The navigations are shown according to their classification ranging from Class A catering for small cruisers up to 9.5m long to Class IV-VII catering for the big stuff up to 85m LOA. The locations of some locks are shown as are the locations of boat lifts tunnels and

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## MARKS MYSTERY

### Where was this photo taken ?

Some waterproof goodies from Aquapac for the first correct identification drawn from the bag. Send entries to Mark Maguire, 24 Clonkil, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, or email [rescuewatercraft@eircom.net](mailto:rescuewatercraft@eircom.net)  
The Winner of Winter 2013 Mark's Mystery was Austin Gunning of Bangor, Co Down who correctly identified Money Penny's Lock on the Newry Canal.



[www.aquapac.net](http://www.aquapac.net)

