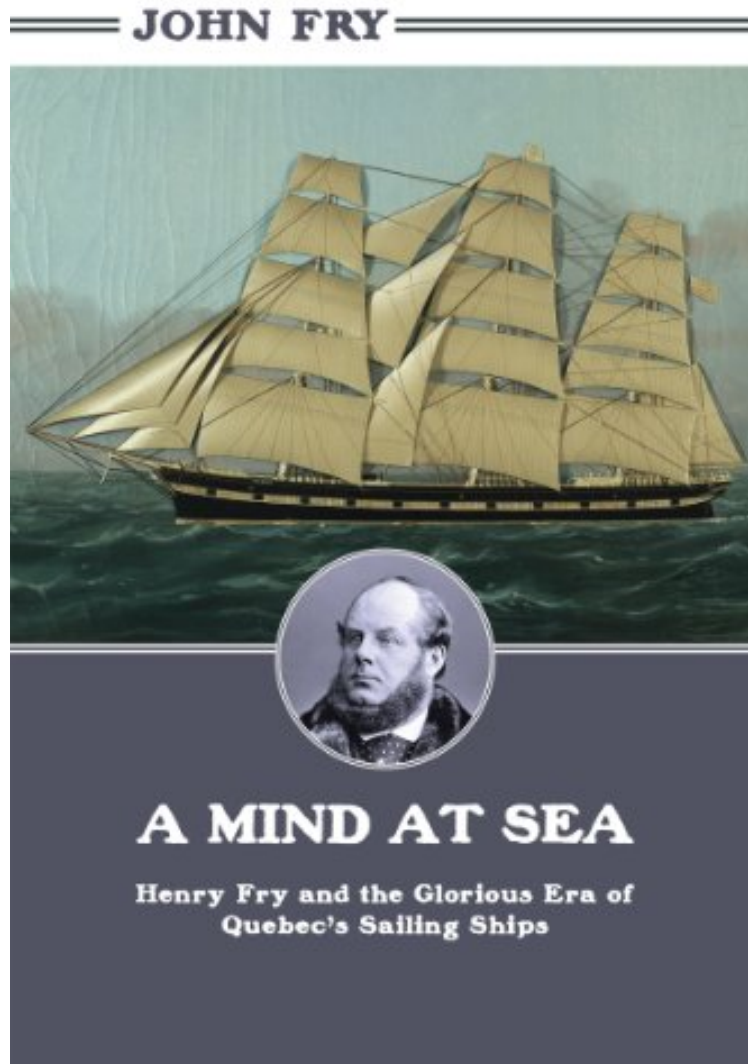


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# A Mind at Sea: Henry Fry and the Glorious Era of Quebec's Sailing Ships

*John Fry*

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**John Fry : A Mind at Sea: Henry Fry and the Glorious Era of Quebec's Sailing Ships** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Mind at Sea: Henry Fry and the Glorious Era of Quebec's Sailing Ships:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating man and an interesting era By KathOne mark of an outstanding nonfiction book is when you suddenly find yourself fascinated by topics that had never been of particular interest before. The "glorious era" of wooden shipbuilding and maritime commerce, the culture and society of Quebec

City in the mid-1800s, the way in which mental illness was diagnosed and treated during that time mdash; author John Fry explores all of these topics in examining the interesting life of his ancestor, Henry Fry. With meticulous research and vividly, accurately reconstructed accounts and anecdotes, Fry brings this story to life. You can picture the docks and coves, the grand ships at anchor, the broad sweep of the St. Lawrence ... And you feel you know and understand his complicated, brilliant main character. I highly recommend this book!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An exceptionally researched and gracefully written account of an intriguing, forgotten period in Canadarsquo;s history.By AequoHenry Fry, the subject of John Fryrsquo;s excellent biography, was born and raised in Bristol, England, the port city from which John Cabot sailed, five years after Columbus, to 'discover' mainland North America, a fact often forgotten by Americans who typically remain ignorant of, or indifferent to, much of Canada's past. An easy read, *A Mind at Sea* is an excellent way to learn about a dynamic period in the history of the country that lies to our north. Henry Fry arrived in Quebec in 1854, a time when more than forty percent of the city's inhabitants spoke English. By dint of his great energy, high intelligence and encyclopedic knowledge of ships and shipping, he quickly rose to become a major ship owner and builder. Lloyd's of London named him their agent for the St. Lawrence River. He went on to become the President of the Dominion Board of Trade. He was scrupulously honest, generous in his philanthropy, fighting to protect seamen from the abuses and exploitation in their work. Henry Fryrsquo;s prodigious energy also had its dark side. He suffered from severe depression beginning in 1877, with which the author deals frankly and humanely. As he recovered, Henry channeled his returning energy into a tremendous outpouring of writing. He produced memoirs, a history of Lloydrsquo;s underwriters, a book of essays on free trade and protection, notes on England, Scotland and Wales, biographical sketches of various friends, and numerous articles and papers. Last, his magnum opus, the *History of the North Atlantic Steam Navigation*, is still consulted by maritime historians as a valuable reference. As the author notes of his great-grandfather, the rise and fall of Henry Fryrsquo;s fortunes almost exactly followed the trajectory of wooden shipbuilding. By the time he died in 1896, wood and sail had surrendered to steam and steel. Ice-bound for five months of the year, and lacking coal and iron ore, the port of Quebec was unable to make the change. Thousands of workers and merchants left for Montreal, New England, or returned to Britain, leaving Quebec again a francophone city. Henry Fry's life was intimately bound up with that of his beloved adopted city in its golden age of sailing ships, and *A Mind at Sea* is an exceptionally researched and gracefully written account of an intriguing, forgotten period in Canadarsquo;s history. -- Aequo1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History with a pulseBy JohnNot being a huge history buff I was surprised by how hard it was to put this book down. The images led me into an exciting world of enormous profits made and lost and the honor and courage that went along with it. The main character having lost his mind, social status, and wife slowly regained her esteem and that of his fellow man in a different sort of life. This book's beautiful personal imagery walked me through a most informative historical account of the shipping trade that will stay with me, as well as what it felt like to be alive on the shipping docks during that period of monumental change. A surprisingly great read that brought history alive and makes me want to read more.John Gower

A unique biography of a nineteenth-century shipping magnate set during a forgotten era ndash; a time when Quebec was one of the world's great shipbuilding centres and tidal seaports.

" The first book in English to tell the little-known story of Quebec City's shipbuilding era since.. 1995." (Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph)About the AuthorJohn Fry worked for more than 40 years as a magazine editor at the Times Mirror Company and at the New York Times Company, retiring in 1999. Fry has published many articles on travel, skiing, health, and religion. He is a citizen of Canada as well as the United States, and lives in Katonah, New York.