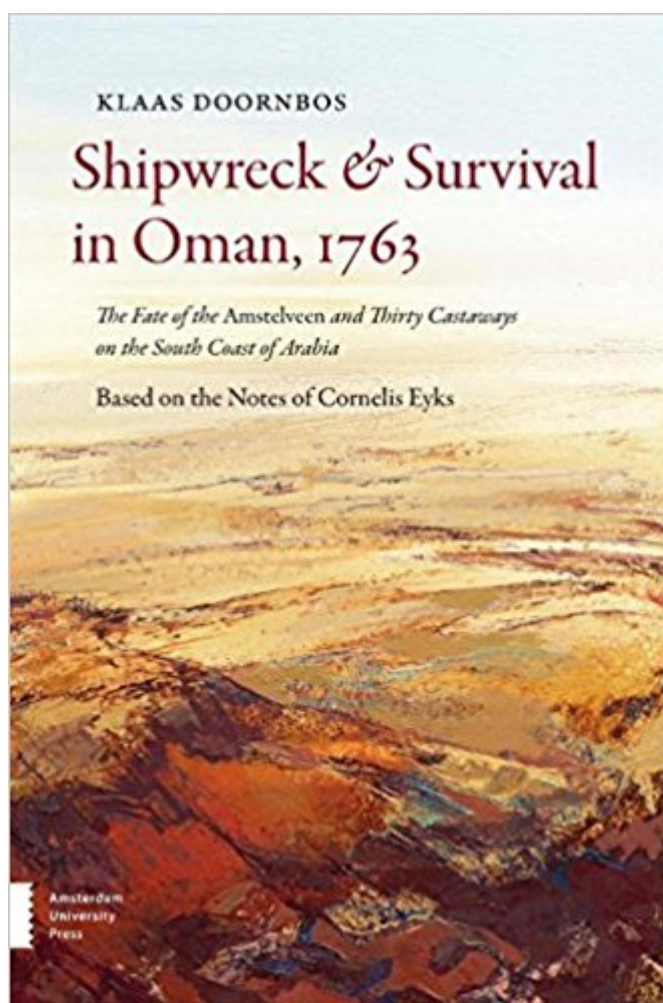


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Shipwreck And Survival In Oman, 1763: The Fate Of The Amstelveen And Thirty Castaways On The South Coast Of Arabia



Synopsis

In 1763, the Dutch ship *Amstelveen* set sail from the Dutch East Indies for Muscat, Oman. Through a tragic combination of human error and rough seas, the ship never made it to port, sinking off the southern coast of Oman. The thirty surviving crew members then faced a terrible trek across a desolate desert landscape to Muscat. Drawing from the logbook of Cornelis Eyks, the ship's only surviving officer, Klaas Doornbos tells the fascinating story of the men's journey across the Gulf of Oman desert, their encounters with the country's inhabitants, and their struggle to survive. Quoting extensively from Eyks's logbook, Doornbos describes how the sailors, barefoot and almost naked, walked hundreds of miles in the blazing sun in the hope of reaching civilization. Some of the men died on the way, while the fate of others is uncertain. It was not until 1766 that Eyks and the remaining men reached Muscat. Throughout, Doornbos uses Eyks's logbook; the oldest remaining European account of the area; to reveal much about the desert coast of Oman and its people. Equal parts social history, anthropology, and survival chronicle, this gripping account of the *Amstelveen*'s crew is a thrilling piece of naval history.

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Customer Reviews

Shipwreck and Survival offers a highly readable account of a unique episode in eighteenth-century maritime history. The gripping details of the trek through the desert and Doornbos's personal journey of investigation - from the chance discovery of Eyks's account on an antiques market in southern France to the search for a 250-year old ship wreck via Google Earth - hold broad appeal to a wide readership. - Guido van Meersbergen in *Mariner's Mirror*

Klaas Doornbos is emeritus professor of special education at the University of Amsterdam and an advisor on educational policy. He is also a keen sailor.

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