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SAN DIEGO MARITIME MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

2727 PRESIDIO DRIVE

SAN DIEGO 3, CALIFORNIA

September 15, 1961

Dear Alan:

Your welcome airletter from Spain got in this afternoon, and in line with your suggestion I am forwarding by air-mail Chapter I and six others which are typical of the book; I also am sending the appendix of masters and voyages.

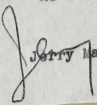
The publishers are talking in terms of making the Christmas holiday trade -- which is why the use of air-mail. Unfortunately the post-office is closed, so I will not be able to get this off until tomorrow morning. I understand that there is some sort of an international reciprocity deal under which return postage can be set up. I would appreciate the return of the carbon copy (like an idiot I had only one made) just in case the publisher's office should be struck by lightning, or something. The book is in the hands of the Howell-North Press, in Berkeley, California, who have a terrific reputation. It's the old, old story -- the only place where you can get quality printing is in the relatively small shop. They have specialized in railroad and general western history; this will be their first venture into the maritime field.

Things are going great guns on the old ship. We got the \$23,000 -- and perhaps even more important, we got Jack Dickerhoff to do the rigging. He's working it over in the state's sail- and rigging-loft aboard the old ferryboat Eureka, in Oakland. Down here, National Steel is going to repair the masts, and San Diego Marine today finished burning away the wasted ironwork of the cap-rail, and welding on new supports for the wooden cap-rail. The also are beefing up the chain-plates and the rings for the dead-eyes. I was in Oakland last week, and I have yet to see more beautiful rigging than we are going to have. It is just superb.

Well, anyhow -- here it is. Again I must tell you that I feel like a gross imposter in asking you to do a foreword -- especially on such a rush basis. But then, you know -- old waterfront reporters have no manners!

The title, incidentally, has tentatively been changed from Iron Lady to, simply, Star of India. There was a well-founded fear that people might confuse "Iron Lady" and "Iron Maiden".

As ever,


Jerry MacMullen

