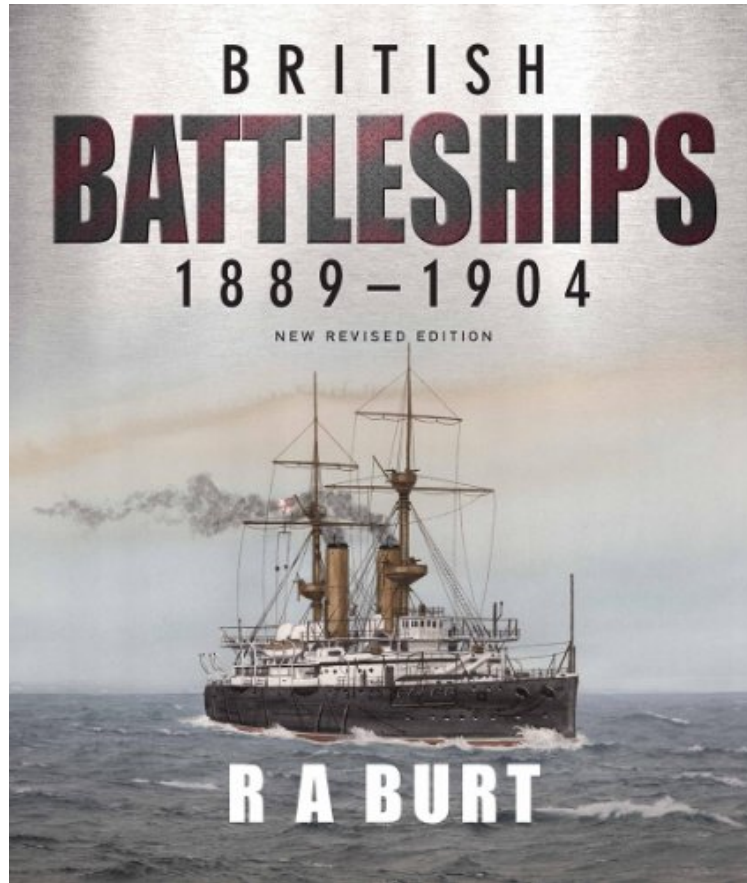


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## British Battleships, 1889-1904

*R. A. Burt*

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**R. A. Burt : British Battleships, 1889-1904** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Battleships, 1889-1904:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pre-Dreadnoughts In DetailBy Daryl CarpenterOf R A Burt's trilogy of books on British battleships, this one is certainly my favorite. British capitol ships built before 1906 tend to dwell in the footnotes and asides of naval history, usually only being mentioned in conjunction with their obsolescence in the post-Dreadnought era. This book provides a fairly detailed, and exceptionally well illustrated, study of every British battleship built from the signing of the Naval Defence Act of 1889, to the the "Lord Nelson" class of 1904. A lengthy introduction provides an overview of British big gun ships from 1869 to 1890, along with descriptions of guns and gunnery, major types of machinery, and the state of the Royal Navy in the late 1880s.The majority of the book focuses on the ships themselves, each class receiving it's own chapter. Each class receives a description of the basic design requirements and evolution, the ships' armament, armor, and machinery, appearance changes throughout the ship's service, and a chronological history of each ship. These descriptions are accompanied by a large number of tables, which provide details on proposed designs, legend and as-built particulars, costs, weight breakdowns, trials statistics,

and stability figures. These, in turn, are accompanied by a large number of photographs, and plans drawn by the author. The photo quality in the revised edition is extremely good. The images are scanned directly from the original plate-glass negatives, and are occasionally so crisp and clear you can see every rivet in the ships' hulls. Many are spread across two pages, although thankfully, the editors at Seaforth are generally wise enough to avoid important details falling into the gutter. Mr. Burt's drawings are also of excellent quality, with the usual outboard and plan views accompanied by transverse and longitudinal sections through the hull. Although I'd love to see Norman Friedman take on the subject, especially after reading his excellent new book on post-Dreadnought British battleships, this an exceptionally fine reference work in it's own right. I would've liked some additional details on machinery and hull structure, but I suppose much on these ships have been lost to time. These ships put in incredibly hard service during World War One, and it's great to see at least one serious reference devoted to them. Each book in Burt's trilogy have their strong points, but this probably the most focused and detailed of the bunch. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Essential reference. By Chris Sterling This volume and the two that follow it are among the most important ever published on British battleships (and battle cruisers and even a few carriers made from battleships). Earlier editions are very expensive if you can find one. Well-researched and written, the photographs will grab your initial attention--large and clear, and many not published before. You can almost hear the waves--and guns. Along with the photos are excellent profile diagrams of changing ship types and their growing size. A brief color section illustrates changing ship colors from the Victorian to Edwardian navy, and large color profiles on the endpapers further show how these vessels really looked in their prime. (If you have the original edition, there is not much change here . . . but if these books are not yet on your shelf, take advantage of their reasonable price now.) 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. More Of The Best. By S. E. Bradfield I had already purchased the other two volumes, and I have an original copy of this one. I wanted this "New Revised Edition" to compare to the original and to have a matched set of all three. This edition really is revised, with new photos and new descriptions, and it maintains the magnificent standard set by Mr. Burt, with more attention to detail and history than any other volumes on the subject. That, and the price is very good at the moment. As far as I'm concerned, this is the definitive work on the subject.

This volume completes the reissue of R. A. Burt's magnificent three-volume history of British battleships, and it covers the pre-dreadnought era which has, in recent years, acquired a new and fervent following. In this new volume, the author presents full details of design and construction, armament, protection, machinery and performance, all backed up with accurate data tables listing design figures, trials results, and full particulars at different stages in the ships' careers. The history of each battleship is recounted, especially their major contribution in WWI, where they bore the brunt of the action at the Dardenelles, bombarded the Belgium coast, patrolled the North Sea and the Channel, reinforced the Italian Fleet, and served in East Africa, the East Indies and the White Sea. Most were extensively modified during the War and this variety has made them of special interest to the historian, enthusiast and ship modeler. With the addition of many new photographs from the author's massive collection, this new edition is a great addition to every naval library.

About the Author R. A. Burt has researched the design, construction and service histories of British battleships for many years, and has one of the most outstanding collections of photographs of the ships. He is an accomplished draftsman and illustrator, who lives in England.