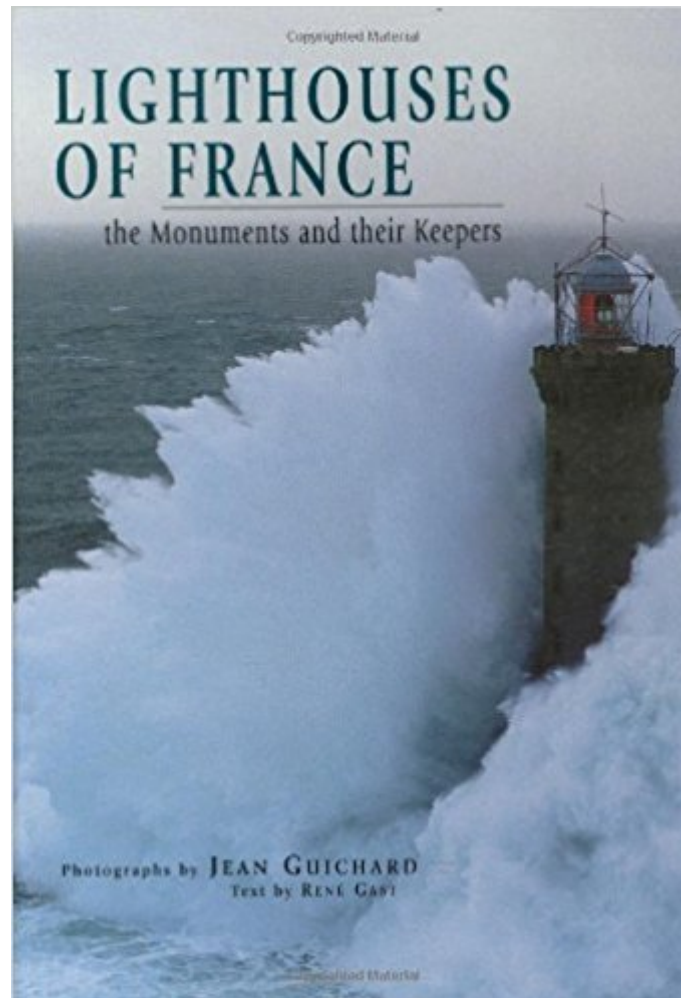




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# **Lighthouses Of France: The Monuments And Their Keepers**



## Synopsis

Lighthouses are an icon of a simpler, more romantic era, which partly explains why they are so wellloved today. Unlike many other countries, France has resisted the trend toward total automation, and in many small ports and seaside towns, the lighthouse keeper is still a wellknown and respected figure. World renowned lighthouse photographer Jean Guichard's famously dramatic photographs of storms at sea illustrate only too well the perilous working conditions the lighthouse keepers face, and the text by Rene Gast provides a fascinating glimpse into the daily lives of these men and women, whose determination and nerves of steel have saved countless lives over the centuries. Even the workmen who built these technological marvels risked their lives with every wave, and had to be strapped bellydown on the rock to avoid being washed away. Today, the job still requires a great deal of nerve, shown in the many photographs of the lighthouses where keepers are still winched down to the deck of the relief boat by hand, dangling from ropes over crashing seas. The book also contains reproductions of a number of historical documents about lighthouses: vintage photographs and etchings, extracts from logbooks, and architectural drawings detailing the development in lighthouse and navigational engineering. Lighthouses of France is a wonderfully romantic photographic tribute to lighthouses and to the bravery and dedication of their keepers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jean Guichard is one of the world's foremost photographers of maritime subjects. He particularly

specializes in lighthouse photography. He has worked on many magazines, including Paris Match. Guichard's work is wellknown throughout North America thanks to the iconic nature of many of his photographs, which sell millions in the form of posters, calendars and postcards every year. Renée Gast is a journalist who specializes in travel subjects, and has written four books on lighthouses.

Admittedly I don't have a deep background with books about lighthouse architecture, experiences, or lifestyle - my sense and understanding comes from this singular experience. Hardcore fans take note and hopefully cut this newbie a break. That said - love this book! Years ago I saw a truly astounding image - an indescribably huge ocean wave crashing into a lighthouse. Incredibly, you could just make out a man who had a door open on the lee side, appearing to have no idea that he was about to be crushed and drowned by millions of pounds of frigid sea water. Honestly, it was and still is, one of the most amazing images of mother nature I've ever seen. So I spent some time trying to locate that specific image for a poster when I learned about this production. Don't know what to say. But I will add: Beautiful, amazing, incredible, terrifying, introspective, stunning, explosive, somber, wonderful, and profound. The list of superlatives is endless. Just a fantastic book filled with images that have to be seen to be believed. Interestingly, I found the stories of deep isolation, the madness, and even murder, really balanced out the photography. Clearly, this isn't all romance and pretty pictures. 'Monuments & Keepers' delved honestly into some of the negative aspects of this lifestyle. I really appreciated that. And it is a lifestyle. These lighthouse folks, for a variety of reasons, intentionally choose the lonely path of existence. Very much in the vein of reality-tv shows about Alaska; currently the du jour of cable programming. The visuals alone make this worth the purchase price - just amazing stuff. But the written content really pulls this work together and delivers an enjoyable education.

Could not even imagine today's modern person working in these conditions for that pay. The pictures are great. I wish I was born a few decades sooner. Great writing, details to all aspects of the job. It goes up with the rest of my many Lighthouse books. And will be reread again.

If you're like me and are captivated by the famous photograph of a lighthouse keeper standing in the door of an old stone lighthouse, and the lighthouse itself, both of which are about to be engulfed by a HUGE wave, you'll be captivated all over again by this book. The photo was one of several taken of a lighthouse known as "la Tempete," off the coast of western France, that was made into a series

of posters, some of which grace a lot of walls around the world, including mine. I had to have the poster of the lighthouse keeper's perilous moment, and when I found out about this book, I had to have it too. I'm glad I did, because it tells the fascinating story behind the "la Tempete" photos, and showcases more of Jean Guichard's life work, the lighthouses of France and his artistic shots of structures that are on that country's registry of historic buildings. A great book to have and enjoy, even if you're like me and only mildly interested in lighthouses, but engrossed by the story behind THAT photograph.

Great images! A cool book for anyone interested in the back-story regarding lighthouses. Great dynamic images of violent seas.

I bought a used version that was supposed to be "LIKE NEW". It is. It's a nice coffee table book. I am fascinated by Jean Guichard's photos of La Jument Lighthouse and the lighthouse keeper during a storm. I was looking for a poster of it. There are a number of the storm at La Jument in the book as well as many other lighthouses--inside and out. It's an interesting book about a topic (living in and caring for a lighthouse) we would rarely, if ever, think of. Jean Guichard is an amazing photographer and his subjects, lighthouses, water, and lighthouse keepers, are equally amazing. Worth far more than the small amount I paid for this great book.

When one thinks of the great "rock lighthouses" they typically think of the ones of the coast of the UK. However the coast of France is just as treacherous and has just as many light's protecting the shipping routes. This is the only book I know of that specifically focuses on the great lights of France. The book has sections on lighthouses in general and, of course, a section that catalogs the different lighthouses. The photos and writing are both excellent!

This is out so others can look at it... It's a beautiful book. I have it near a photo, on my wall, that Guichard took... highly recommend

Bought this as a gift. She loved it. It has amazing pictures. Great coffee table book for the lighthouse lover.

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