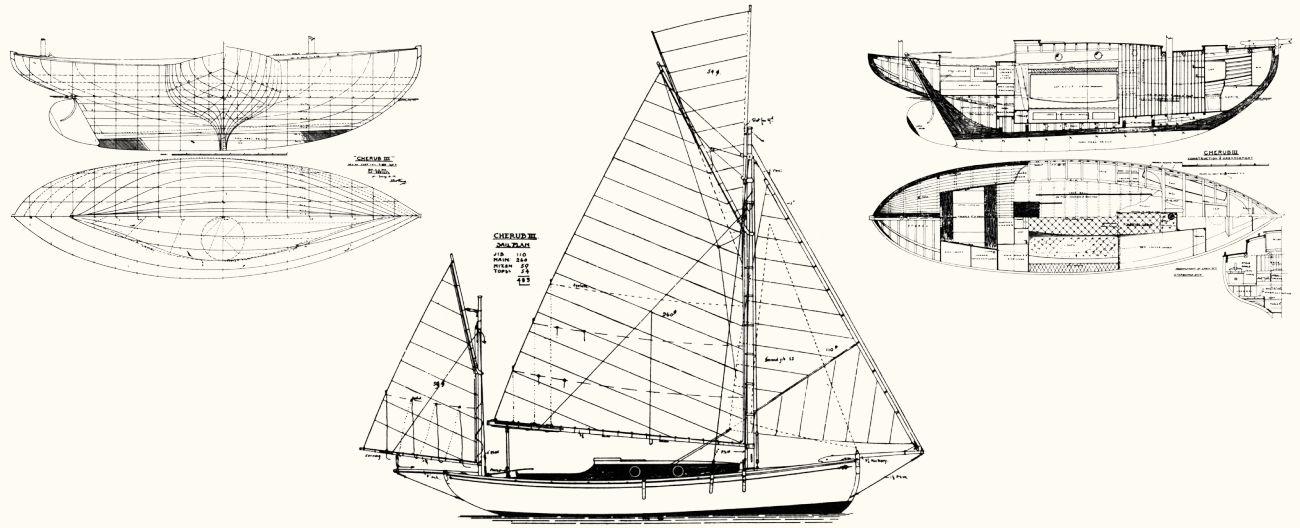


JOHN LEATHER was born in 1928 and brought up in the maritime traditions of north-east Essex, with a family background of fishing, professional yachting and shipbuilding. He designed and built many small boats and yachts, and owned many himself. He was by profession a naval architect and was involved in the design, construction and surveying of ships of many sizes and types throughout his professional career. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects and a Chartered Engineer. *Gaff Rig*, his first book, won the inaugural *Daily Express* ‘Best Book Of The Sea’ award in 1970 and his second, *The Northseamen*, won second prize in 1971. He was the author of many further maritime books, and a regular contributor to *The Boatman* and *Classic Boat* magazines. John Leather died in 2006.

IAIN OUGHTRED is a former dinghy racer turned self-taught designer, principally of modest sail-and-oar craft, many with a strong Nordic influence, intended for inexpensive construction by amateurs. He is a long-standing member of The Albert Strange Association, with an abiding affection for Strange’s particularly sleek *Hawk Moth* design, to be found in this book.

THIS BOOK was first published in 1990 and has been out of print for many years. It has been updated for this edition by replacement of the text of Strange’s *Yachting Monthly* cruising yarns with facsimiles of the illustrated originals; inclusion of some more recent boat photographs; an extended selection of art images; and a detailed list of all Albert Strange designs, and boats built to them, known to its creators—The Albert Strange Association.



Front Cover: *Running Into Port, Eyemouth* (detail), oils by Albert Strange c1885-90 (*Tony Watts collection, photo Andy Watts*).

Back Cover: *EMERALD*, built 1938 to Design No 121 of 1911, *CHERUB III*—Albert Strange’s own last boat (*Photo: Nigel Thompson*).



£20



ALBERT STRANGE — Yacht Designer and Artist

John Leather



John Leather

ALBERT STRANGE

Yacht Designer and Artist

With a Foreword by IAIN OUGHTRED

ALBERT STRANGE (1855-1917) packed into his sixty-one years a breadth of creative activity, with a depth of talent, quite extraordinary by any standard. The son of a shop proprietor in Gravesend, on the Thames Estuary, he had no maritime or artistic family background of which we know, yet from his teen years he developed a passion for being on the sea, and recording it and its traffic in both words and pictures. A formal education in art, and a career as an art teacher, enabled Strange to enjoy a secure family life while pursuing his amateur interests.

At the Humber Yawl Club from 1891, and with his great friend there George Holmes, he developed the then-emerging Canoe-Yawl into arguably the best coastal cruiser for single- or short-handed use, and with Holmes and their Club friends cruised the type locally and in mainland Europe (shipping their boats by steamer as deck cargo).

He undertook adventurous coastal voyages, often singlehanded, and mostly in craft of his own design, and wrote and illustrated highly engaging accounts of them; three from the pages of *Yachting Monthly* of more than a century ago appear in this book.

Strange went on to co-found the Scarborough Sailing Club, and by the first years of the twentieth century was receiving paid design commissions from further afield for deep-draught sailing yachts, many of which bore his trademark canoe counter, of which he had the best understanding and was the finest exponent. In total he created some one hundred and seventy designs, a majority of which have survived; many are of timeless quality, some being built in the present century.

As an artist Albert Strange exhibited often, at the Royal Academy in London and the Walker Gallery in Liverpool. As Master of the School of Art in Scarborough for more than thirty years he taught many later luminaries, including Charles Adderton, Ernest Dade, J. Henry Inskip, Frank H. Mason, Charles Pears, Gertrude Spurr, Harry Watson and Mary Wheelhouse.

Strange’s designs and his art were products of his time as well as of his talent, and in this book, based on extensive research by The Albert Strange Association, John Leather and ASA members place their subject’s technical and artistic output accurately within the context of his predecessors and his contemporaries.

To Strange’s catalogue of ability and achievement were added wit, charm and unassuming modesty; family, friends and colleagues were bereft on his death and the world was the poorer for it, but today, and largely through the efforts of the Association formed to celebrate him, the permanence of Albert Strange’s legacy is assured.