



# FATHOM

*"Building, Dwelling, Thinking"*  
MARTIN HEIDEGGER | 'BEING AND TIME' | 1927



*"I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve. They weren't built for any other purpose... I tell you the thing does not belong to any world that you and I have lived and worked in: it is part of our dream world. You were brought to think in ways that would be possible nowhere else. It was a place for deep dreaming."*

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW ON SKELLIG MICHAEL | 1910



*"My sense is that as we go forward into the so-called 'information age', paradoxically, we recognize less and less because we value experience less and less. By the time I was in my teens, I was aware that there was less silence in the world, less empty space. I developed a nostalgic yearning for those empty silent spaces I had never experienced but which I knew existed."*

RONI HORN, 'RONI HORN, CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS' | 2000

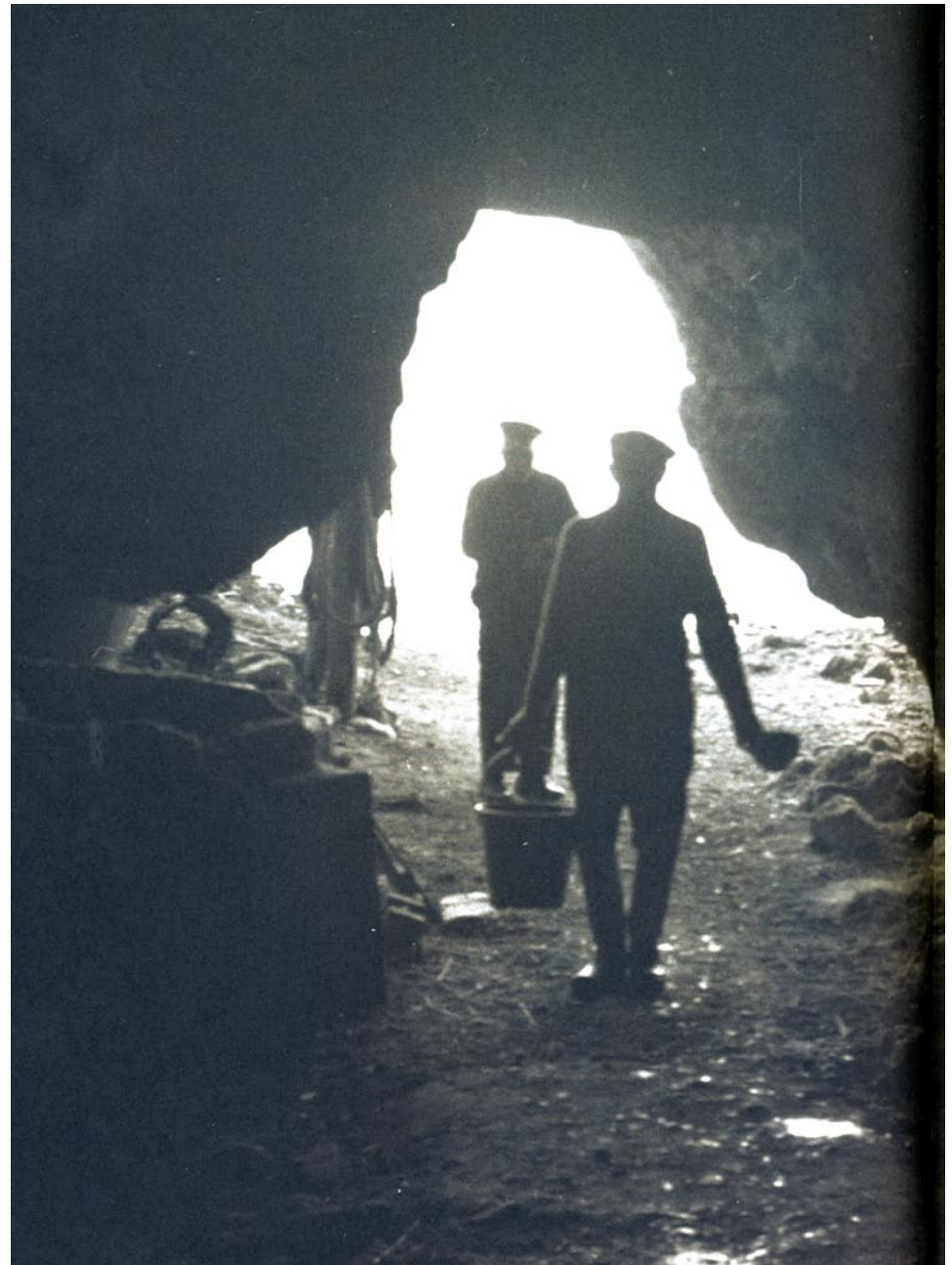


Sir Robert Ball | 'Fastnet foreman James Kavanagh lived on the rock by his own desire continuously from August 1896 to June 1903 having set every stone of the tower with his own hands.' | 1900



*"The soul that has re-created itself in isolation has gained something of the humility of the grass, the rocks, the winds. All that lives is holy unto it; and it realizes, taught by the innumerable voices of Nature, a certain ultimate equality in everything that draws breath."*

JOHN COWPER POWYS, 'A PHILOSOPHY OF SOLITUDE'.



'Hugh and Albert Rourke, 1956'. | Michael J. Murphy | National Folklore Collection, 1956.



Gary Coyle | 'Lovely Water' No. 1886' | 2006

*"What did we do? Sometimes we'd sit. More times we'd sit and think."*  
DICK O'DRISCOLL, LAST PRINCIPAL KEEPER, FASTNET LIGHTHOUSE | 1982-1991



Rodney Graham | 'Lighthouse Keeper with Lighthouse Model, 1955' | 2010

*"I built myself a workshop in one of the rooms where I used to make model ships. I spent all my time in that room when I wasn't on duty. I have never been able to get time like that on the mainland. Time on a lighthouse is different to time on land."*

GERARD BUTLER, ASSISTANT LIGHTKEEPER, FASTNET LIGHTHOUSE | 1977-1979





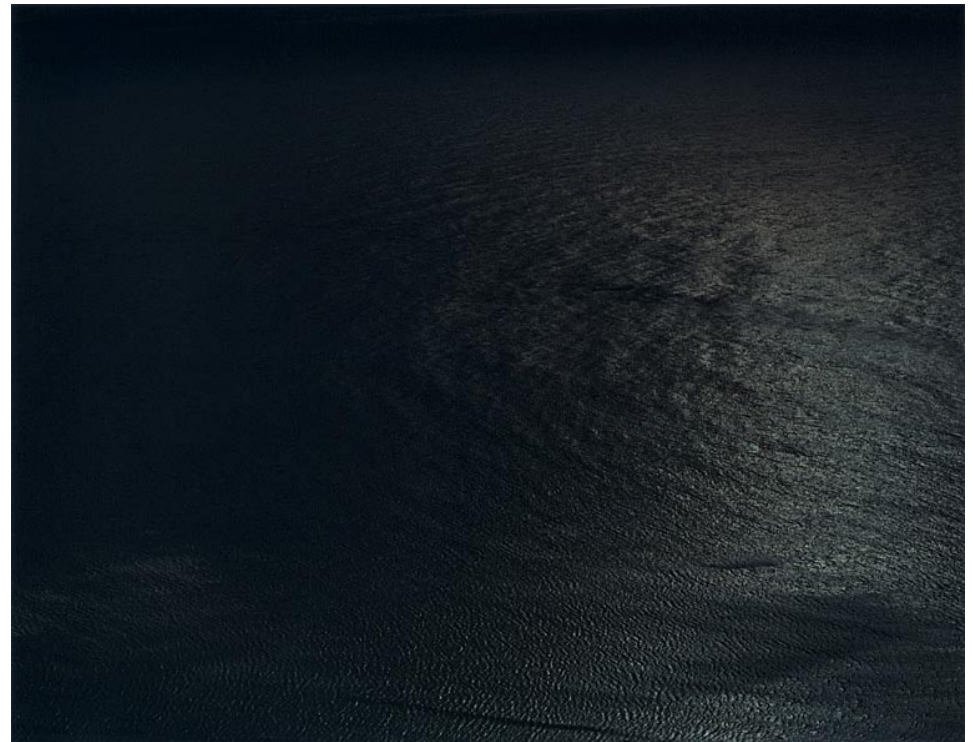
Gary Coyle | 'Lovely Water No.171' | 2000



Michael McSweeney | 'Lighthouse Window' | 2004

*"If I were asked to name the chief benefit of the house, I should say: the house shelters day-dreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace."*

GASTON BACHELARD, 'THE POETICS OF SPACE'.



Nicholas Hughes | 'In Darkness Visible, Verse II' | 2007

*"Your solitude will expand and become a place  
where you can live in the twilight, where the  
noise of other people passes, far in the distance."*

RAINER MARIA RILKE, 'LETTERS TO A YOUNG POET'



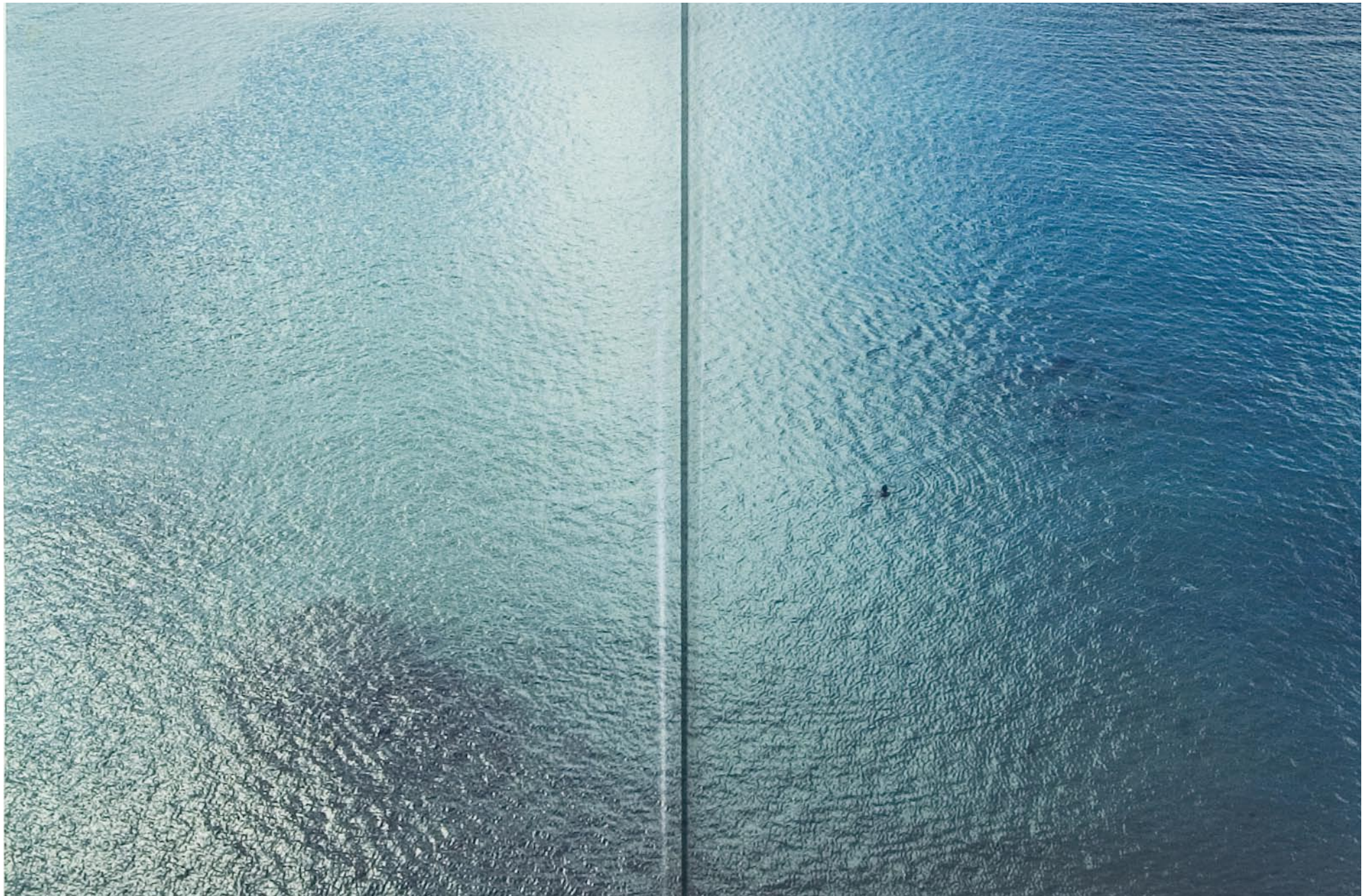


*"To see the sea thundering towards the tower and a wall of angry white water about to explode against it was awesome. It was not unusual to have sea – not sea spray – hit the kitchen windows which are located 120 feet about sea level. The worst seas usually arrived after Christmas. They would come sailing up over the entire building, like a field of horses. Up, up and over. A moment's silence would follow immediately as the tower became completely covered with water – and then, the eerie silence would be replaced with the crashing, thunderous sound of hundreds of tons of falling water and a short time later, the noise of the wind and sea again."*

Sean McFarland | 'Sea', | 2011

JOHN NOEL CROWLEY, PRINCIPAL KEEPER, FASTNET LIGHTHOUSE | 1984 - 1989



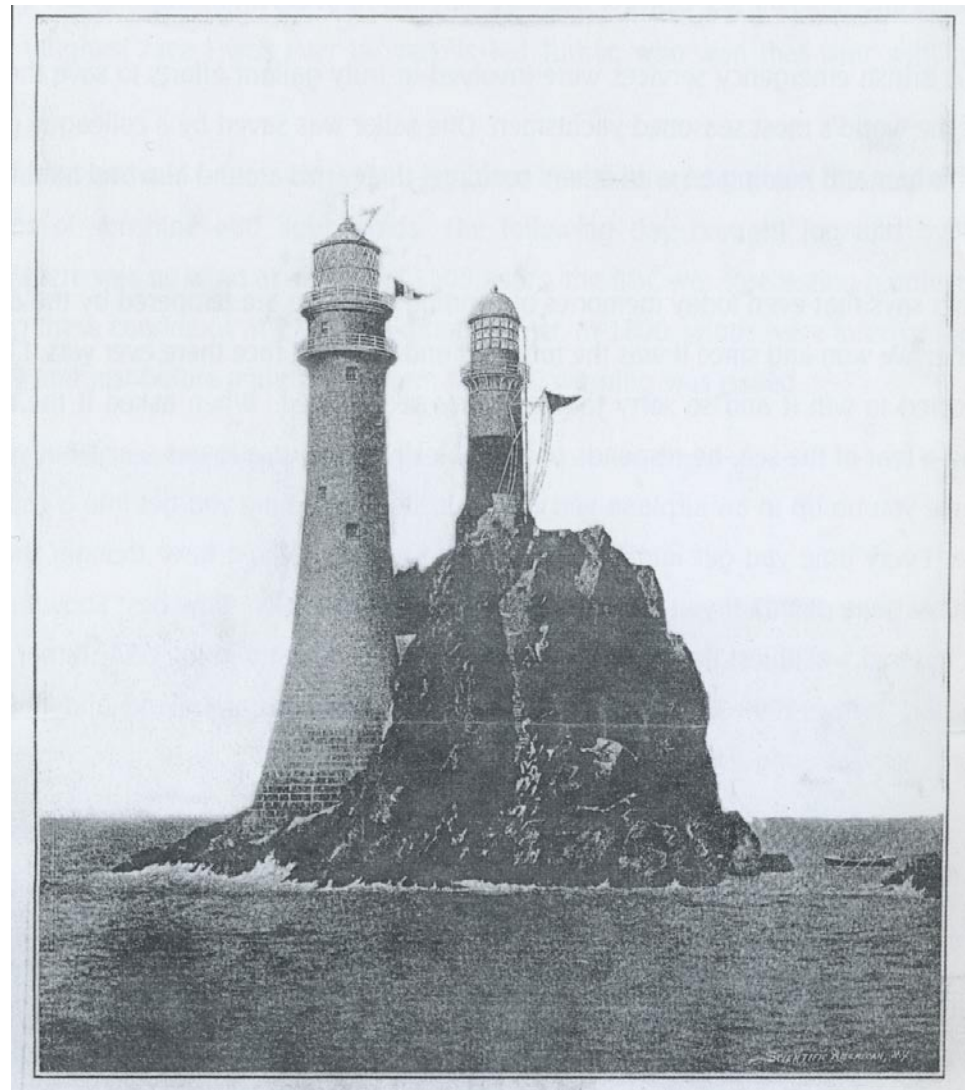


*"The Fastnet Rock has exhibited her many and varied moods, from gargantuan storms that caused the tower to vibrate so much the delph was sent smashing to the floor to times when the keepers were able to swim in the azurian seas."*

Richard Misrarch | 'On the Beach' | 2008

DICK O'DRISCOLL, LAST PRINCIPAL KEEPER, FASTNET LIGHTHOUSE | 1982-1991



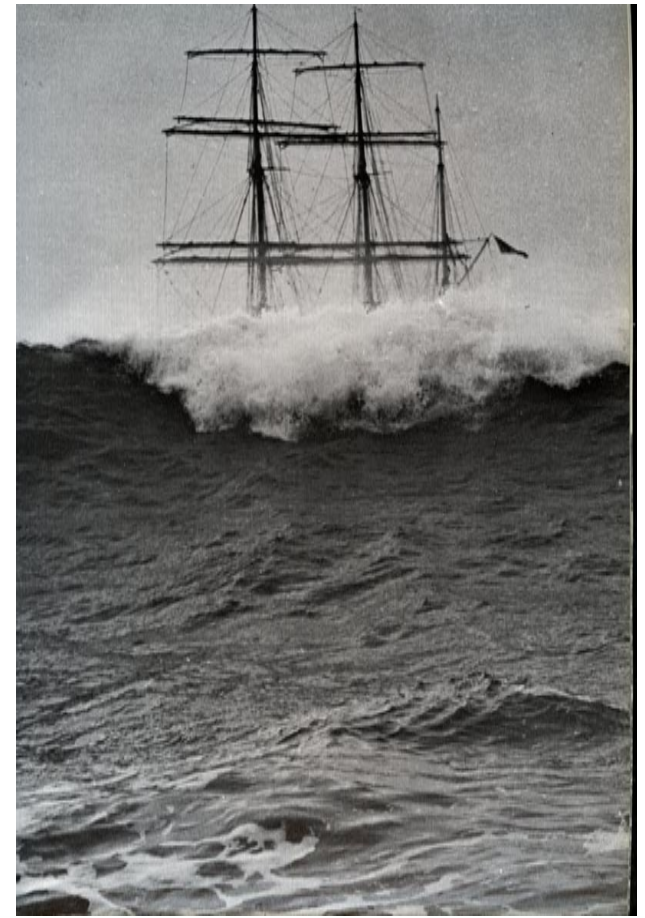
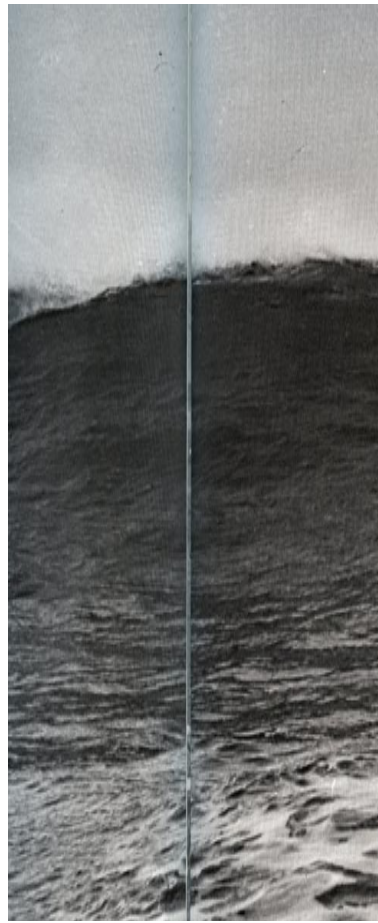


*"Fastnet Rock lighthouse as seen from ocean liner before dismantling of old lighthouse."*  
Scientific American Magazine | 1907

*"The closing was a very poignant moment, as those large gun-metal doors crashed into place behind me for the last time, sealed like a tomb. After 135 years of human habitation, the lighthouse will now be empty. I think of all those whom we have helped and now we aren't there anymore. How will they cope? "*

DICK O'DRISCOLL, LAST PRINCIPAL KEEPER, FASTNET LIGHTHOUSE | 1982-1991





'Goliath 1905', | Plummer Collection | San Francisco Maritime Museum.

*"A succession of races of man moving across England, leave behind them a part of the environment for their successors, but 1,000 fleets of rigged ships pass up and down the western ocean and leave on its face no trace at all. Each ship is her own world. On land, in Britain, history is all around you. But apart from fragments, the continuity of the history of ships rests only in the minds of men."*

**BASIL GREENHILL, 'MERCHANT SCHOONERS',**

