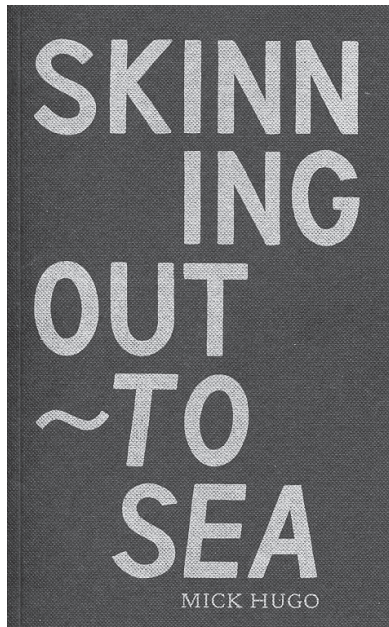




BOWLINE BOOKS



SKINNING OUT — TO SEA by Mick Hugo

In the 1960s, when Hoxton-born Mick Hugo 'skinned out' to sea he was joining more than 150,000 other British merchant seamen then serving on ships across the world. The Merchant Navy provided a safety valve for a lot of young working-class men, enabling them to tear up their past and start again. Yet we have very little idea of what life was like, 'cabined, cribbed, confined' at sea for long periods of time amongst strangers, who became by default, in Hugo's words, 'your adopted family'.

'Skinning Out' provides a rare and affectionate portrait of life above and below decks, as well as bouts of shore leave mayhem, all described with insight and humour, enlivened by the writer's own captivating illustrations.

— Ken Worpole

'Skinning Out' is set in Doves Type. Created by Robert Green using sources from original Doves Press publications and metal sorts recovered from the River Thames by Robert Green and the Port of London Authority salvage team. Designed by Sam Blunden, and printed on Cairn Natural White and Colourplan Imperial Blue, in London by Xtra-Print.

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CATEGORY

- Autobiography
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- East London history

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mick Hugo was born in 1946 in Hoxton, in the East End of London. He grew up with his mother, a dressmaker, his father, a demolition worker, and his sister. At 15 he joined the Merchant Navy and left during the 1966 Seamen's Strike. He rejoined as a casual, finally leaving in 1972.

Mick became a painter and decorator, then a general builder. He is a self-taught painter, sculptor and illustrator.

His wife died in 1999, he has three children and six grandchildren. He still lives in the East End.

