

Zizzle - Pop

Fire 2 on ze buzzer

4 z FAPA

Blame Chauvenet.

It may be true that there are some "missing ship" affairs not normally explicable; for all I know, it is possible that such things as described in Kipling's "A Matter of Fact" & in other yarns may have a real existence.

Nevertheless, I think a careful look at a recent book by George S. Bryan: "Mystery Ship" will serve to convince anyone that the mysterious element in the case of the very famous "MARY CELESTE" is by no means what legend has made it.

The "details" about the half-eaten meal, the boats all aboard, etc, Bryan definitely shows to be imaginary. He quotes the actual evidence given at the salvage hearings by the "prize crew" which went aboard the derelict and sailed her in.

It then appears that of the Mary Celeste's two boats, one was smashed in New York just before sailing. The other, the yawl, was much less seaworthy - and this boat, along with the chronometer, ship's papers, and crew, were all missing when the derelict was found. ∴ we see the crew took to the boat and abandoned ship. Why? Very simple. The Celeste carried 600 barrels of alcohol in cedarwood casks, such casks are porous and allow some vapors to escape. The accumulation of vapors in the hold alarmed the captain, who abandoned ship; but the unseaworthy boat must have capsized, leaving the Celeste to sail on untended. Convinced? If not, read Bryan's book! - JRC.