Author lectures Jan. 23 on history, told from sea’s perspective

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. - Thursday, January 23, at 7 p.m., historian Lincoln Paine speaks at The Mariners’ Museum on the sweeping history of mankind’s relationship with the sea and his assertion that maritime history has been the real driver of world history.

Nearly three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered in water, yet most written history centers on the movements of armies, the building of cities, and the taming of the land. Yet, for thousands of years, people have been launching themselves onto water to fish, trade, fight, and explore -- and doing so in ways that have profoundly shaped human institutions and the rise and decline of civilizations.

Paine writes in his new book, The Sea & Civilization: A Maritime History of the World, "I want to change the way you see the world map by focusing your attention on the blues that shade 70 percent of the image before you, and letting the earth tones fade."

Paine is the author of four books, including Ships of the World: An Historical Encyclopedia, and has written more than 50 articles and reviews on various aspects of maritime history.

The Mariners’ Museum’s spring 2014 Lecture Series is free to all, due to the generosity of sponsors including PNC Bank, the Peninsula Community Foundation of Virginia and The Tom & Ann Hunnicutt Lecture Fund. Lectures are held in the Main Lobby. Members may reserve seats online at MarinersMuseum.org/lectures, or by calling (757) 591-7715.

The Mariners' Museum, an educational, non-profit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings and other maritime artifacts. For hours and information, visit www.MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.