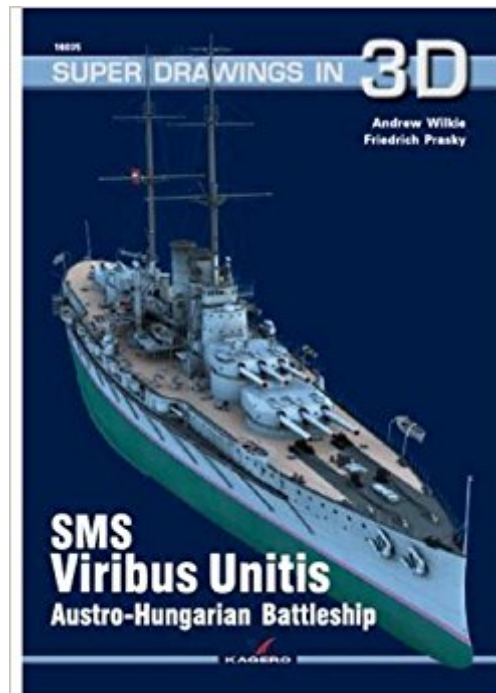




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SMS Viribus Unitis: Austro-Hungarian Battleship (Super Drawings In 3D)



Synopsis

Tegetthoff Class In 1907 the navy of the dualist, multinational Austro-Hungarian Empire placed an order for a new class of warships, whose design was based on the "all big gun" concept pioneered by HMS Dreadnought. Eventually four Tegetthoff class vessels were laid down, including the flagship *Viribus Unitis*, *Tegetthoff*, *Prinz Eugen* and *Szent Istvan*. The last warship of the class was not completed until well into World War I. The vessels' careers were not especially eventful. They spent most of their service lives as a "fleet in being" anchored in a well-protected port of Pola with only occasional trips to the Fiumana Channel (well-screened by Briuni Islands) for gunnery practice. During the war the ships were manned mainly by reservists, while the most promising and experienced members of their crews were detached to serve onboard submarines or torpedo boats, or assigned to land-based units. The second ship of the class ended her career in rather dramatic circumstances, which is why she perhaps deserves a more detailed treatment.

Viribus Unitis The Battleship IV was laid down at San Marco on July 23, 1910 and launched on June 24, 1911. The Emperor's court used the occasion to organize a lavish celebration designed to carry a strong political message. The Emperor insisted that the battleship be given a rather unusual, Latin name *Viribus Unitis* (Strength in Unity - the Emperor's personal motto).

REVIEWS ...competent, compact development and service summary... nearly 60 pages of photo-realistic, 3D color plates. Pioneering 3-gun main turrets. Secondary armament. Superstructure. Masts. Propellers and rudders. Anchors, cranes and anti-torpedo nets. Even colors... Stem to stern, Kagero certainly offers amazing levels of *Viribus Unitis* details including the warship's funky green anti-fouling paint and lavender boottopping. But therein lies the most exasperating aspect of Kagero's stunning study: no one offers an injection-molded model of this beautiful battleship! Sure, a couple 1:700-scale resin *Viribus Unitis* kits have appeared. But they're hard-to-find and expensive. Maybe Kagero's ripping reference will change all that. And we'll soon add plastic Tegetthoff Class Dreadnoughts to our display cases! Ravidly recommended! Cybermodeler

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent books with short histories and superb artwork of the subject ship. Individual books have additional material such as scale drawings and some have 3D content complete with glasses for viewing them. Superb for both content artwork and general appearance, these books bring the subject vehicle back to life in all their magnificent detail. Great for modeling, general information or simple viewing. Very pleased with the product and content.

A must have book for the modeler looking to build Viribus Unitis or any of the Tegetthoff class. Eye typical of the Kagero series of books. It has Ship/class information and a history of Viribus Unitis along with great 3D images and line drawings.

Fantastic coverage of one of the world's lesser known dreadnoughts. The centerfold computer generated portrait of the ship at anchor is awesome.

Super good

This is the 35th (No. 16035) book in Kagero's Super Drawings in 3D series. It is published in the familiar format of an 8-1/4" x 11-3/4", stapled card cover with 68 interior pages although the page numbering includes the card covers which is standard for this series. The subject is a welcome one, a dreadnought type battleship built in a nation which would shortly no longer exist, Austria-Hungary. The computer graphics, as always, are superbly done and give the reader an excellent impression of the exterior of the ship. There are a few features present which I have not seen on the ships in other volumes in this series. The openings where the main armament emerges from the turrets are closed off by metal panels which have to be opened for the guns to elevate. These are unfortunately always shown opened. There are also vent doors in the interiors of the funnels. I would have liked

more detail here as well. There are also extensive views of the ship with the torpedo nets deployed. But this book has more than a few weaknesses as well. The text has never been a great selling point of these books but this book was especially lacking in this area. There was no discussion at all of the design or technical details of the ship. There is a service history of sorts but it is padded out with exposition about the political problems of the country which ultimately led to its partition. The translation is more than a little dodgy as well. There is the sentence "The Szent Istvan survived almost unscathed" followed by an account of her sinking! I think the authors were going for "The Szent Istvan almost survived unscathed". The captions are generally informative but rather brief. The constant use of "headlights" when "searchlights" was meant was annoying. The torpedo battery also gets short shrift, being below the waterline. Only the stern tube is mentioned in the captions. The covers for the side tubes are visible but not mentioned; I couldn't make out the bow tube at all. The worst failing was the lack of the usual unbound foldout with conventional line drawings. All the reader gets is a full page advertisement for the volume in Kagero's Top Drawings series for this ship. I hope that this does not become the norm for this series. In conclusion, the book can be highly recommended on the computer graphics alone but if the conventional line drawings are important to you you may have to buy another book.

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