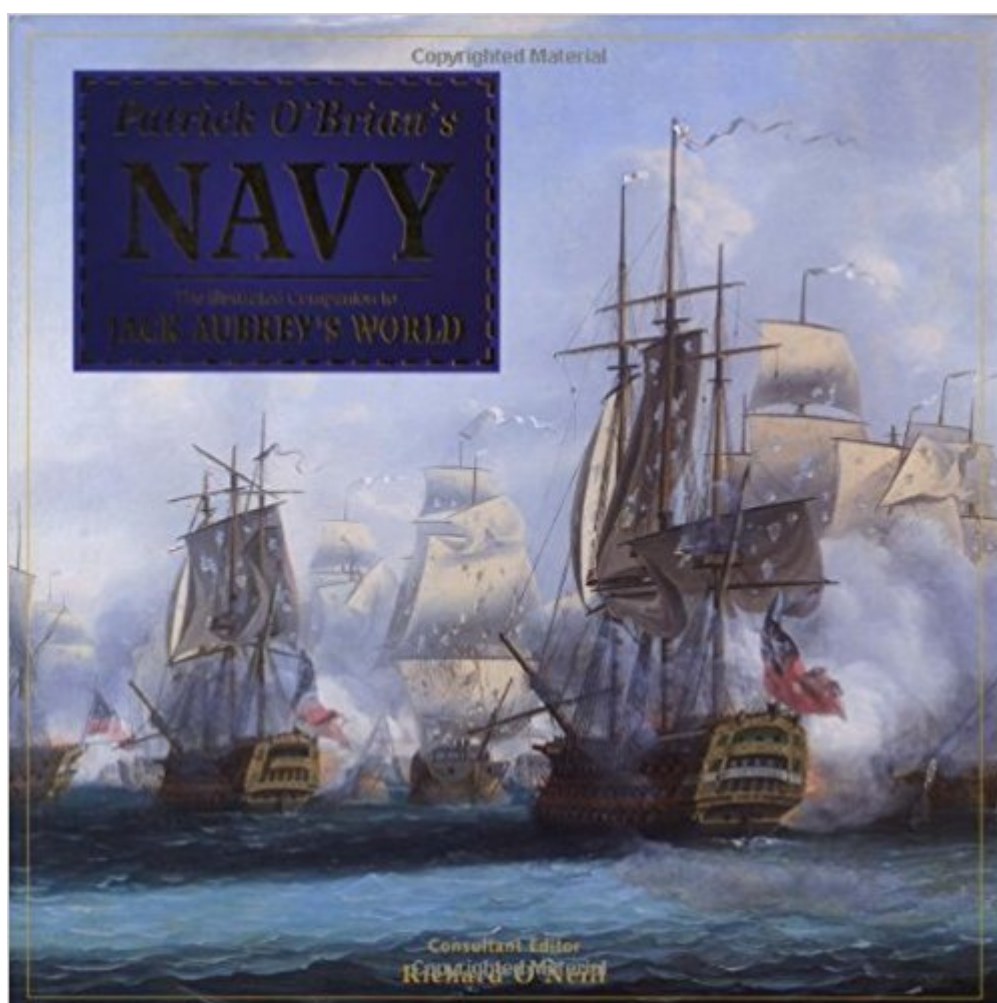


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Patrick O'Brian's Navy: The Illustrated Companion To Jack Aubrey's World



Synopsis

From the moment that *Master and Commander*, the first of Patrick O'Brian's sequence of 20 novels about the 19th century British Royal Navy officer Jack Aubrey and his surgeon colleague Stephen Maturin, was published in 1970, critics hailed his work as a masterpiece of historical recreation. Called "the best historical novels ever written" by the *New York Times*, the books have sold millions of copies. This first full-color illustrated companion to the Aubrey-Maturin series, timed to coincide with the release of the blockbuster Twentieth-Century Fox film adaptation starring Russell Crowe, explains the fascinating physical details of Jack Aubrey's fictional world. An in-depth historical reference, it brings to life the political, cultural, and physical setting of O'Brian's novels. Annotated drawings, paintings, and diagrams reveal the complex parts of a ship and its rigging, weaponry, crew quarters and duties, below-deck conditions, and fighting tactics, while maps illustrate the location featured in each novel.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Both visually impressive and highly informative, this large-format introduction to Napoleonic naval warfare focuses on Patrick O'Brian's splendid Jack Aubrey saga, which it presents as a major work of English literature. In fact, parts of this book (including the material on Lord Cochrane, the original model for Jack Aubrey's character) will be more useful to O'Brian's fans than to the lay reader. However, the book also depicts, in words and pictures, the political background of the Napoleonic Wars, the development of the major navies, the sailors' life at sea (where weather and disease killed far more men than battles did) and the design and construction of the wooden sailing warship. The

volume also details the training of officers, fleet actions, frigate actions (prominent in the career of both Cochrane and his avatar) and the role of piracy, slave trading and mutiny in the maritime history of the era. Although not uniformly well reproduced, the illustrations are outstanding, including many period items, and the book as a whole makes a fine treat O'Brian's many fans. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Richard O'Neill is a writer and editor who has specialized in military history for the past 40 years. He is the author of *Suicide Squads*, a history of the weapons and missions of the Special Attack units of World War II. He has contributed to many books on weaponry and military history, including *The Complete Encyclopedia of 20th Century Warships*, *The Vietnam War* and, most recently, *An Illustrated History of the Royal Navy*. He was a major contributor to *Lands And Peoples*, a multi-volume educational work, and wrote *Presidents of the United States* for the *Facts America* series. He is also the author of *The Middle Ages and World War II* for the "Historical Facts" illustrated series.

Great companion to the book series for those who want to know a little more about the million or so references to life in the British Navy during the Napoleonic War era.

The history of the classic British Navy of sailing ships has provided many great works of fiction, none better than Patrick O'Brian's "Master and Commander" series. Schooner, Ketch, Frigate, Man O' War, so many classes and types of naval vessels. Set a story on a three masted ship of the line, and the characters and story must move through a maze of decks, passageways and cabins; must set sails and operate in a forest of masts and spars, with a massive web of rope lines to control it. This book in clear language and illustrations tells the history of British Naval warfare, the historical events that took place during this time period, and the basics of vessels, sailing and crew life to make this strange world real to the reader.

Wealth of background story, lovely illustrations, and a delight to wade through on a stormy night with the wind pelting down the Georgia Straight. Truly a joy and well worth the price of admission. Good condition used copies are relatively abundant.

Greta book, given as a gift..

I have become a huge fan of Naval fiction as a result of the Aubrey-Maturin books, but - as a midwestern land-lubber - found myself lost when it came to a lot of the nautical and historical references in this genre. This book is both informative and enjoyable to read. It covers the obvious nautical terms and features but also explores the equally interesting historical inspirations for the characters and events in the novels. The graphics and paintings that are included are especially enjoyable. I always find myself dreaming of the high seas on the nights when I browse this book in bed. I highly recommend it.

My husband is a big fan of the Aubrey series so I decided to buy him this book for his birthday. He absolutely loves it. He's read it cover to cover and browses through it all the time. It's a fairly big, coffee table type book that has a lot of pictures and illustrations. I guess it fills in the details of the actual events that happened in the Navy at the time and the ships and people that inspired the book. I'm glad he loves the book because he is very hard to shop for. I would highly recommend this book for anyone who loves the Aubrey series by Patrick O'Brian.

this book provides a wealth of background information on the Jack Aubrey series. It needs to be bigger and more complex, especially with a better glossary, since terms will be used to explain other terms but without explaining them or listing them in the glossary. It has some great pictures and is quite helpful for clearing up many mysterious references in the books for those of us who have never sailed on a man o' war.

Arrived in excellent condition and would never have believed that this was a "used book" since it looked and felt brand new to me. It has been a wonderful help for me in getting to better understand some of the maritime words and meanings that go along with the Jack Aubrey books and also who the vast cast of characters are in the different volumes. I would recommend it to anyone who is seriously going to tackle all 20 volumes of Jack Aubrey's World. The illustrations also are most helpful and provide a quick and fundamental education on what sailing warships were like in the 18th and 19th centuries.

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