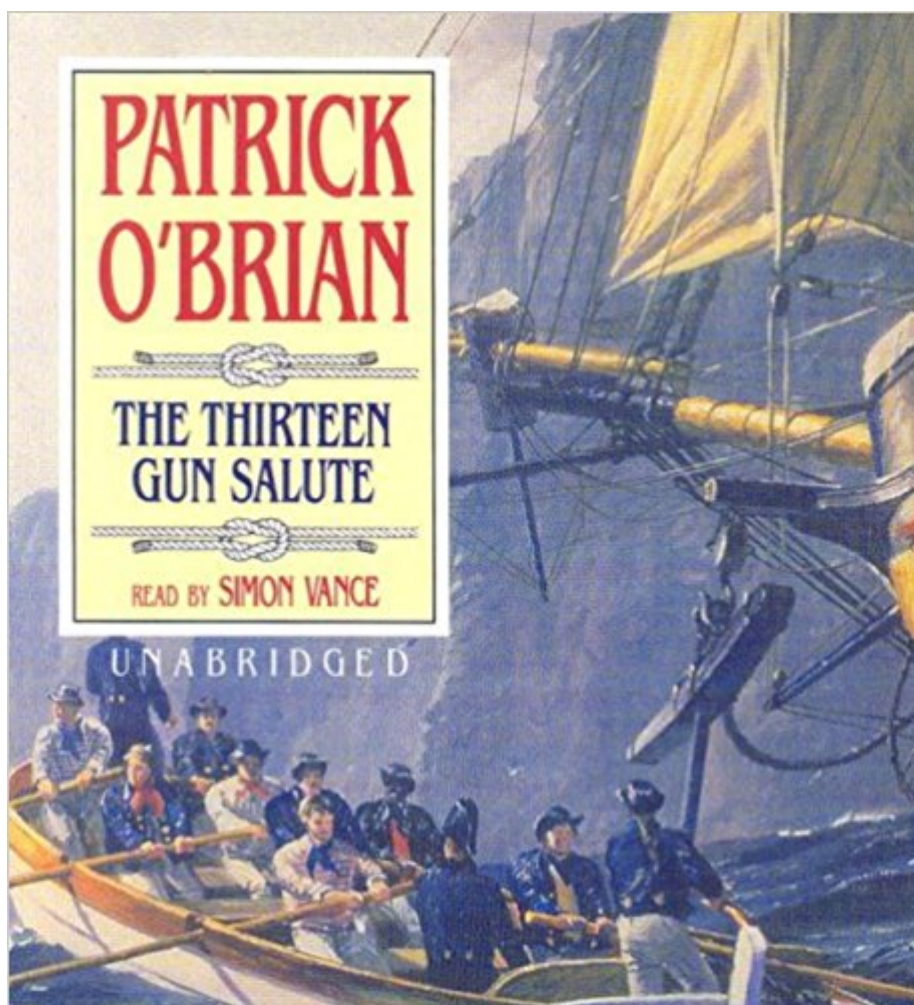




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The Thirteen Gun Salute (Aubrey-Maturin)



Synopsis

Captain Jack Aubrey sets sail for the South China Sea, shepherding Stephen Maturin's diplomatic mission to prevent links between Bonaparte and the Malay princes. A classic duel of intelligence agents unfolds.

Book Information

Series: Aubrey-Maturin (Book 13)

Audio CD: 9 pages

Publisher: Blackstone Audiobooks; Unabridged edition (December 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786165766

ISBN-13: 978-0786165766

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 5.2 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 96 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,582,472 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(O \) > O'Brian, Patrick](#) #2515 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Sea Adventures](#) #3787 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Sea Stories](#)

Customer Reviews

Will Napoleon Bonaparte form an alliance with the Malay princes of the South China Sea? Not if Jack Aubrey can help it. Conveying a diplomatic mission to the Sultan's court, Aubrey and company must also contend with orangutans, typhoons, and a squadron of wily French envoys. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The 18th in O'Brian's Jack Aubrey series will please current fans and likely make new ones. Newly rich Aubrey (*The Letter of Marque*), again a Royal Navy captain and even a "rotten-borough" M.P., is given command of the frigate *Diane* with orders to bring king's envoy Fox to conclude a treaty with the sultan of Borneo before Napoleon does. Aboard is Jack's friend Dr. Maturin, English secret agent and avid naturalist. After a placid trip (via Antarctica) and some stormy local politics (involving two English traitors and the sultan's catamite) the treaty is made. Fox's growing arrogance breeds ill will and when homeward-bound *Diane* hits a reef Jack gladly sends the envoy ahead in a cutter. O'Brian's style has been compared with Jane Austen's: even the dinners (in country house, London,

ship's mess, sultan's palace, Buddhist monastery) are distinguished wittily. Perhaps the most charming segment is Maturin's idyllic stay in a remote valley, where he blissfully encounters and studies a variety of tame exotic beasts. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Another story limited in calendar length with a lot of color for the reader. I think it's a good story, although parts are familiar to the readers of all of the previous books. To be sure, O'Brian inserts new twists and certainly leaves the reader with a spectacular cliff hanger at the end. As usual, the characters and the action are worth reading. I learned more about the Malaysian geopolitical situation of the era. There is little that happens at sea and there are long passages of the at sea portion of the book that, in reality, are meaningless and seem designed to lengthen the overall story. The treachery that occurs on land is worthy of any spy novel of any era. Overall, I'm glad I read it. I really like the characters, the plots and the storytelling devised by Patrick O'Brian in this series. I like it so much I'm reading the entire series for the second time. I recommend it.

O'Brian puts the reader directly in the times of a British Naval officer and the voyages and actions encountered. The battle scenes are exciting as are the vivid descriptions of weather encountered under sail (storms and calms). An aspect of the writing and story lines in the Aubrey/Maturin series I love is the placing of the characters in actual historic scenarios. Its been fun to look up the ships and battles. For non-sailors, there may be ships terms used that are not understood (e.g., cathead, cross-trees) and some descriptions of the positioning of ships prior to engaging in battle (e.g., gaining weather gage), which add to a sailors reading enjoyment, but for others just read through and enjoy the content! Plenty in these books to keep you turning pages!

O'Brian is one of the two or three best popular novelists of the 20th century. The NY Times reviewer was correct to compare his writing favorably to Jane Austen (Tolkein would come in a distant second). O'Brian accurately recreated the time, the politics, the persons and the challenges presented by the Napoleonic wars. He made one weep, he made one laugh; he made the day worth enduring for the sake of the next volume in this remarkable series.

I love these books. I've never before been hooked on a book series but, with the completion of each book, it's impossible not to go immediately to the next one. The history, the details, the characters, the stories are great. Best of all is the quality of Patrick O'Brian's writing. Brilliant.

Patrick O'Brien never fails to thrill in the high sea adventures of Aubrey/Maturin. It is a shame that Hollywood only made one movie off of these books and that being Master and Commander. It could have been a great franchise and money maker with some effort put into it. I find all of O'Briens novels in this series great reading with high adventure.

I think this series is one , if not, THE best that I have read. The books offer insights into history and particularly interesting details into the British Navy, how the politics worked, the mores, the physical details, and many, many similar things. I never thought I would get so hooked on something like this series. Read it, and please start from the first book, though they can be read individually and stand on their own. Reading them serially, though, adds insight. I am so sorry that I am coming to the end. Shame on O'Brian for not living forever and turning out these books as fast as I have time to read them.

The best naval novelist of all time. Great stories of the life and times of a naval officer during the Napoleonic Wars. Start with the first book, Master and Commander, and read them all serially. If you saw the movie, Master and Commander; Far Side of the World, starring Russel Crow as Capt. Jack Aubrey and enjoyed it you will certainly enjoy O'Brain's series of books.

Until introduced to Patrick O'Brian some eight years ago, I had assumed (incorrectly) that the Hornblower series by C. S. Forester was the top-of-the-line for naval conflicts, at least in the Napoleonic era. Fortunately, I was tipped to O'Brian and have now, thanks to and the Kindle editions, been able to read all the Aubrey/Maturin Novels. I could niggle, and say that in the later works there is too much exposition of previous adventures, but that may be necessary for those who read the books one at a time in standalone fashion. However, they are still the best of the lot.

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