



The Golden Ocean

By Patrick O'Brian

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The Golden Ocean By Patrick O'Brian

The first novel Patrick O'Brian ever wrote about the sea, a precursor to the acclaimed Aubrey/Maturin series.

In the year 1740, Commodore (later Admiral) George Anson embarked on a voyage that would become one of the most famous exploits in British naval history. Sailing through poorly charted waters, Anson and his men encountered disaster, disease, and astonishing success. They circumnavigated the globe and seized a nearly incalculable sum of Spanish gold and silver, but only one of the five ships survived.

This is the background to the first novel Patrick O'Brian ever wrote about the sea, a precursor to the acclaimed Aubrey/Maturin series that shares the excitement and rich humor of those books. The protagonist is Peter Palafox, son of a poor Irish parson, who signs on as a midshipman, never before having seen a ship. Together with his lifelong friend Sean, Peter sets out to seek his fortune, embarking upon a journey of danger, disappointment, foreign lands, and excitement.

Here is a tale certain to please not only admirers of O'Brian's work but also any reader with an adventurous soul.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

O'Brian's first sea-going novel, **The Golden Ocean** is a precursor to the acclaimed Aubrey-Maturin series in its excitement and rich humor, its eloquent style and tapestry of historical detail. Peter Palafox, second son of a poor Irish parson, sets out on the voyage of a lifetime when he seeks his fortune as a midshipman in Commodore Anson's flotilla. With five ships under his command, Anson leaves England in 1740 to circumnavigate the globe and attack Spanish ships wherever they can be found. Peter comes of age in the complex but sharply defined community of the fleet as they engage in battle, fight disease, and face shipwreck.

From Publishers Weekly

Originally published in 1956, this is O'Brian's first novel of the sea. But it is more than just a curiosity from the author of the 16 wonderful Aubrey/Maturin books, most recently *The Wine-Dark Sea*; it can stand on its own as an entertaining and psychologically astute narrative. Based on British Commodore George Anson's four-year circumnavigation that began in 1740, the book focuses on young midshipman Peter Palafox. A younger son of a poor Irish parson, Peter is sweet-natured, impetuous and innocent (though well educated: he knows English, Irish, Latin and Greek). Much of the narrative follows his evolution into a capable seaman with a talent for leadership and--after the capture of large sums of Spanish gold and silver--into a rich man. This early work has practically all the naval lore and sense of place that grace the Aubrey/Maturin books; the scenes in China are particular standouts. Shipboard life rings true, the story never flags and humor abounds: "Well, he is a wonderful poacher for a Protestant," observes one Anglo-Irishman. O'Brian says he wrote the book in about six weeks, "laughing most of the time," and one believes him. Though the splendid characters of Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin are absent, fans will gladly use this story to fill the time til the next episode of their adventures.

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From Library Journal

Although this 1956 title preceded O'Brian's popular Aubrey/Maturin series, it set the course they later followed. The Golden Ocean relates the adventures--or misadventures--of Peter Palafox, a tenderfoot landlubber who signs on-board a deep water bark without ever having seen a ship. A humorous adventure for all collections.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dana Richardson:

What do you think of book? It is just for students as they are still students or the idea for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that question above. Every person has several personality and hobby per other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *The Golden Ocean*. All type of book are you able to see on many methods. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Robert Mills:

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Michael Barth:

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