



C S FORESTER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Produced and edited by Dr C E Blogg for the C S Forester Society

Please send any contributions
you wish to be included in the
Newsletter by post of e-mail
admin@csforester.org

Volume 2, Issue 14

December 2003

HORNBLOWER DVDs FOR CHRISTMAS

From Kathy Hermanowski

A & E Television Networks

I came across your C S Forester site and loved it—what a great resource for his fans!

I just wanted to let you and your visitors know that the much-anticipated release of Horatio Hornblower: The New Adventures DVD set is now ready for pre-order in our online store with a special offer!

Free poster with purchase! Pre-order today and get a FREE Horatio Hornblower collectable poster with your order! (Hurry, offer good while supplies last!)

Horatio Hornblower: The New Adventures DVD and VHS set are currently available for pre-order in our online store. Get your copy first when you order in our online store! The sets should begin shipping exclusively from A&E on December 3rd, before they are available in retail stores or from any other source.

Here are some specifics on the set:

HORATIO HORNBLOWER: THE NEW ADVENTURES DVD/VHS sets

(<http://store.aetv.com/html/product/index.jhtml?id=71070>)

Anamorphic Widescreen Format

Cast and crew biographies

Commentary with director Andrew Grieve and producer Andrew Benson

Interactive menus

Photo gallery

Scene selection

The ultimate high-seas hero, Horatio Hornblower is a man of unshakeable courage, high principles and matchless skill. Loyalty finds Horatio marooned in peacetime Portsmouth, living off his superb card playing skills. But with the winds of war stirring, Hornblower is given command of the sloop, Hotspur. Duty sees Horatio jumping into wedded bliss, and then returning to his command to face a French fleet that is preparing for invasion—aided by an old nemesis.

Swashbuckling action, broadside battles and below-decks intrigue set the Emmy-winning Hornblower saga apart from other historical dramas. Ioan Gruffudd gives a star-making performance as the dashing hero, and the stellar supporting cast includes Robert Lindsay, Jamie Bamber and Paul Copley. This 2 volume DVD set contains two feature-length Horatio Hornblower movies, Loyalty and Duty.

Thanks again and I commend you on the quality of content your site offers C S Forester and Horatio Hornblower fans everywhere! Let me know if there's anything I can do for you.

kathy.hermanowski@aetn.com

Inside this issue:

<i>Max Hasting's Praise—John Forester</i>	2
<i>P.B.F.A. Book Fairs</i>	2
<i>Hornblower—One More Time</i>	3
<i>Report of Oxford Meeting of CSF Society</i>	3
<i>Courses at National Maritime Museum</i>	3
<i>Correspondence</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Chatham Publishing book catalogue enclosed with Newsletter
- Review—An unlikely hero, *The Times*, 4th July 1987—enclosed
- **SUBSCRIPTIONS—**
—Several of you are delinquent in paying your annual membership fee (£10/\$15). If you have not paid since the last AGM, this will be your final issue of the Newsletter

CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions are much appreciated.

For *Reflections* please send to

David Stead

151 Walkley Crescent Road, Sheffield S6 5 BA

For *Newsletter* please send to

Dr Colin Blogg

11 Park Town, Oxford OX2 6SN

MAX HASTING'S PRAISE

A REPLY FROM JOHN FORESTER TO THE EXTRACT INCLUDED WITH NEWSLETTER NO. 13

P.B.F.A. Book Fairs

Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London WC1 on Sunday 14th and Monday 15th December

The Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh and Blackfriars Hall, The Plains, Norwich both on Saturday 6th December

Whalley Abbey, Ribble Valley on Saturday 13th December

Church Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne, Dorset on Saturday 27th December

Max Hastings praises CSF's works for all the right reasons, and reports that his father knew CSF and that Max, himself, also once met CSF, probably about 1960. Max refers to CSF's attendance at Dulwich College, a fact that was not generally published (he was shown on the official records by his birth name of Cecil Smith), and was, probably, known only to those who knew CSF from his youth. (I don't know when Alleyn's School and Dulwich College started to list CSF as a famous alumnus.) Despite this evidence of accurate knowledge, Max's article presents the very common misconceptions about CSF's life that CSF had been careful to disseminate. "No long struggle for recognition...first novel, *Payment Deferred*...passionate amateur sailor {who} learned much about the sea by sailing his own boats...[working for Hollywood producer and wunderkind] Irving Thalberg..." The error in describing CSF's illnesses as "a stroke in his fifties" is understandable. Atherosclerotic severely limited CSF's walking from 1943 on; he had a severe heart attack in 1949; he suffered his incapacitating stroke in 1965.

As for sailing his own boats, the only boats that CSF ever owned were the Annie Marble outboard camping skiff and two folding kayaks, one in England in the 1930s, one in the USA in the 1940s, to which add, possibly, the boat in which he toured English canals in 1930, but which was, more likely, rented or borrowed. He never even crewed aboard a sailing yacht, or aboard any yacht at sea, although, once he became famous, he may have been a guest aboard someone's yacht for very short periods. His seamanship was of the impractical kind. I am in a position to judge, not only from my knowledge of what CSF did and showed me, but from my own knowledge of seamanship.

I have been first mate aboard the 31-foot

racing yacht Panacea (Pacific Class, for those who know them, built by Kettenberg in San Diego many years ago), and have single-handed her between regatta venues when her owner did not have the time to do so. I had what was probably the first Zodiac on the Southern California coast, using it for scuba diving and touring among the offshore S. Cal. Islands and the Sea of Cortez. I also sailed my brother's yacht through a 64 mph squall, caught with the mainsail on the windward side on a sunny day with very light, intermittent wind and hazy air (yellow smog?) when preparing to anchor on what became a lee shore in Long Island Sound. For two days after that, dismasted boats were being towed in. Would I have trusted CSF to take a boat of mine to sea? Not a chance.

Editor's reply: Thank you for replying so quickly to the Max Hastings' appreciation of your father. It all underlines, following what you have said about CSF's lack of seamanship and lack of practical experience of handling a sailing boat, what a gift he had of being able to write so convincingly of such matters—perhaps similar to the gifts which encouraged his parallel career of spinning untruths?

I came recently to CSF's description of Hornblower weathering a storm in the English Channel (*Hornblower and the Hotspur*) and it is the most convincing description I have read and exactly portrays my own experience under similar conditions.

Your own catalogue of effective seamanship is truly impressive and I hope you will put it down on paper for us all to enjoy.

I guess you had seamanship as a natural instinct. I certainly wouldn't have taken a young child on a long trip in the "Annie Marble". Very brave!

NEXT MEETING OF THE C S FORESTER SOCIETY

This will be held in Portsmouth on Saturday 10th April 2004. There will be tours

of HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, The Naval Museum, Dockyard, etc.

HORNBLOWER—ONE MORE TIME (1976)

Orobko 54. APG 53a

52a. Tacoma, Washington: Non-Profit Press, 1976

Willow Arune (néé William Orobko) compiled this book. She comments:

Way back in 1974, I met a fellow from Tacoma, Washington, in a local (Vancouver, British Columbia) bookstore. He and his group in Tacoma had published various sci-fi privately. Over the next while, I convinced them to do a book on my favourite—CSF and Hornblower.

I gathered all the contents. The poem was the hardest to find—a last minute trip to the Vancouver Public Library gave me an accidental solution. The bibliography was prepared from my own collection and by research in London at the old British Museum Library. In the mid 70s, I was one of the very few CSF collectors. During that period, I met with Dorothy Forester and Reeman, Pope, O'Brian and others. I stayed with Reeman and his wife in Kent

several times and we went to wonderful places, including the Savage Club in London. Such a nice fellow!

Anyway, that is how Reeman came to write the intro and sign the first 50 copies. The only "Richard Bolitho Association" was in my living room, when he and he wife arrived in Vancouver on an Alaska cruise. (How times have changed—I had to contact him on a ship-to-shore telephone, a very cumbersome process!) The book came along—it was harder to "justify" in those pre-computer days and then we ran off 500 copies. We had a publication party north of Seattle, in a German restaurant, and the book sold out in a week or so.

I sold my CSF collection to the University of Texas some years ago. It was too difficult to insure by then and I had moved on—finally—to other interests.

Courses at The Open Museum, The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF

The War at Sea, 1939-45, 8 weeks, 20 April-8 June, Tues. 10.30-12.30

Rank and Style: Naval Uniforms Explored, Wednesday 26 May, 10.30-16.15

The Navy at the Movies, Saturday 19th June, 10.30-16.15

Further information from www.nmm.ac.uk/Openmuseum

CSF SOCIETY MEETING IN OXFORD SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER

Sixteen members and guests met at Green College, Oxford. We heard of the enthusiasm and painstaking care by Andy Hooker, who is editing the scanned manuscripts which the Society hope to publish. Progress is slower than he had hoped, but Andy is hopeful of completing the editing within six months.

The venue for the next meeting was agreed to be Portsmouth, in the spring of 2004. Captains Don Beadle and John Roberts will be the hosts and will give a firm date as soon as it is available. Discussion on holding a joint meeting with, perhaps, the Patrick O'Brian Society, was inconclusive. John Dobson (a new member) offered Bristol for a meeting in October 2004. He suggests visiting SS Great Britain and other historic ships in Bristol.

The membership list has been pruned of members who have failed to pay their subscriptions during the past two years. However, a final reminder is to be given to the tardy.

Lawrie Brewer, Pete Tessier, Judith Edwards, Don Beadle and Colin Blogg each gave individual descriptins of their favourite books and why. The passion shown for each book will surely encourage us all to re-read others' favourites.

Champagne preceded lunch and then the Society switch to the Chairman's nearby house. This allowed him to show off some aspects of his collection and explain how it all happened.

Colin Blogg

Please send any contributions you wish to be included in the Newsletter by post or e-mail admin@csforester.org

Dr Colin Blogg
Chairman, C S Forester Society
11 Park Town
Oxford OX2 6SN

admin@csforester.org

www.csforester.org


C S FORESTER
SOCIETY

The Society for all those interested in the works of C S Forester. Membership £10/\$15 a year
admin@csforester.org

NAVAL WARFARE

The Daily Telegraph, 22.11.03

I am not sure what Hollywood has done to Jack Aubrey, but I feel we should ask: "What has Patrick O'Brian done to the fictional Royal Naval captains of the 18th and 19th centuries?"

One of the first maxims drummed into aspiring writers is not to let your research show. What do we get from O'Brian? Wodges of text about sailing methods, rigging systems, 18th century medical practices! flora and fauna from around the world etc *ad nauseam*.

Another admonition is to work out an interesting plot. Plot? Not from O'Brian. Yet another is to make your characters live, make the reader want to identify with them, love them, sympathise with them, or hate them. I do not find Aubrey or Maturin believable and most of the other characters are cardboard.

Give me Forester's Horatio Hornblower, Kent's Richard Bolitho and Dudley Pope's Ramage any day.

Frank Payton, Tetford, Lincs. (Spotted by Richard Miller)

CORRESPONDENCE

From Greg Degnan

I am trying to collect the complete series in hardback first editions. I have obtained all except the three volume set *Captain Horatio Hornblower* published in 1938. I have found several copies for sale but none have dust jackets. Was this set published without dust jackets or do I keep looking?

Editor's reply: I am pretty sure that the set you seek would have had djs, so I advise you to keep looking and we will too!

From Josh Harper

I am trying to locate the source of a quote that I believe is from one of the Hornblower books: "... there can be no love without respect—and no love without a twinkle of amusement". Can anybody in your Society tell me where that is from?

joshua.harper@tpwd.state.tx.us

Editor's reply: Can anyone help?

From Simon Lusk

Can you tell me the name of the short story that discusses the possibility of a German landing in England in WW2?

Editor's reply: It's in *Gold from Crete*, which is published 1971 Michael Joseph and Little, Brown and 1971 Pan Books

From Marcel van der Rijst

I have a question. Maybe you can help me. C S Forester wrote a lot of nautical books, but he has written also one sci-fi story named *The Man Who Didn't Ask Why*. For someone who has tried to collect all details of sci-fi stories and books in Dutch from 1700 till now, I am searching for when it was published first and in which book or magazine. Could you help me to find this missing data?

Editor's reply: Curiously, just before this correspondence, Ken Mackenzie sent me a copy of this short story which he found in a Pan paperback, *Journeys into the Macabre*, 1974, editor Peter Haining.

From Jehuda Straschnow

I found the review of Mr Max Hastings (*The Man Who Ruled The Waves*) of profound interest. I got the feeling that Mr Hastings prefers C S Forester's writings and especially the Hornblower series, over Patrick O'Brian's writings, this without diminishing the latter's merits.

I personally feel that the Horatio Hornblower stories are more compassionate, more human, more in depth on character and feelings of our hero, than those of O'Brian's Captain Aubrey. But maybe of course I am biased! Wonder if I am alone in this approach?

Ed: I agree entirely