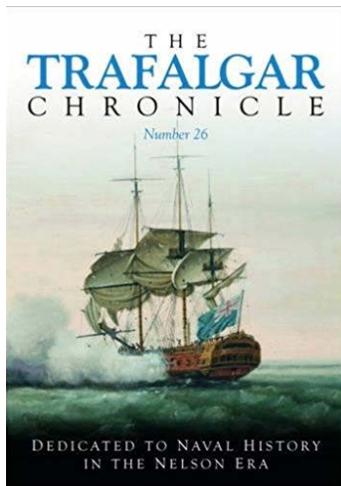


The Napoleon Series Reviews

Hore, Peter, ed., *The Trafalgar Chronicle. Dedicated to Naval History in the Nelson Era* (New Series: No. 1). Barnsley (UK): Seaforth Pub., 2016. Illus. ISBN# 9781473895720. \$29.95/£19.99.



The 1805 Club was founded in 1990 to preserve the history and monuments of the Royal Navy of the Georgian period, its enemies and its allied. Each year, the Club publishes a yearbook containing scholarly articles on its area of interest and the 2015 volume is dedicated to North America and North Americas during the Georgian period and contains 17 scholarly articles devoted to those subjects. As such, it is a small and well-illustrated treasure trove of late 18th and early 19th century naval history including studies of marine navigation and charting, impressment, notable personalities, prominent and less prominent warships of the time, and naval actions. It is impossible in a review limited in size to discuss all the contents of this most interesting volume so I will content myself with noting some of the more interesting contributions.

For the reviewer, a fascinating contribution was a reconstruction, using period images and computer modelling, of HMS *Victory* as she would have appeared at the time of the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. It should be noted that the Chronicle is very well illustrated with both black and white, and colour images. As this year's edition is dedicated to North America and North Americans, it is not surprising that there are two articles related to the Chesapeake campaign of 1814 and the bombardment of Fort McHenry. Another study concentrates on the Chesapeake-*Leonard* affair of 1807 and I was glad to see that the author, a Briton, states that the War of 1812 "arguably ended in a British victory," although one suspects if his nationality was different, his conclusion might also differ. In the same vein, there is a succinct but very complete study of mechanics of impressment and its validity as a cause of that conflict. There are a number of biographical studies of naval personalities: American Nicholas Biddle, Britons Samuel Brokensha, Charles Fremantle and Richard Strachan; and Canadian Frédéric Rolette -- and then there are Isaac Coffin and Archibald Kennedy, Americans who had successful careers in the Royal Navy.

The technical aspects of naval are represent in articles on gathering hydrographic data and marine charting and surveying during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Finally, of course, a yearbook title the *Trafalgar Chronicle* would not be complete without on article on Nelson and a retired American admiral writes an interesting account of Nelson's troubled service in the West Indies in the 1780s. The future naval super-hero came into conflict with the local business community and his own superiors but that author concludes that Nelson's experience made him a "valuable naval leader: who "would fearlessly speak the truth."

In sum, the *Trafalgar Chronicle* is an interesting and informative anthology that is recommended for readers interested in the sailing navies of the Napoleonic period.

Reviewed by Donald E. Graves

Placed on the Napoleon Series: October 2017