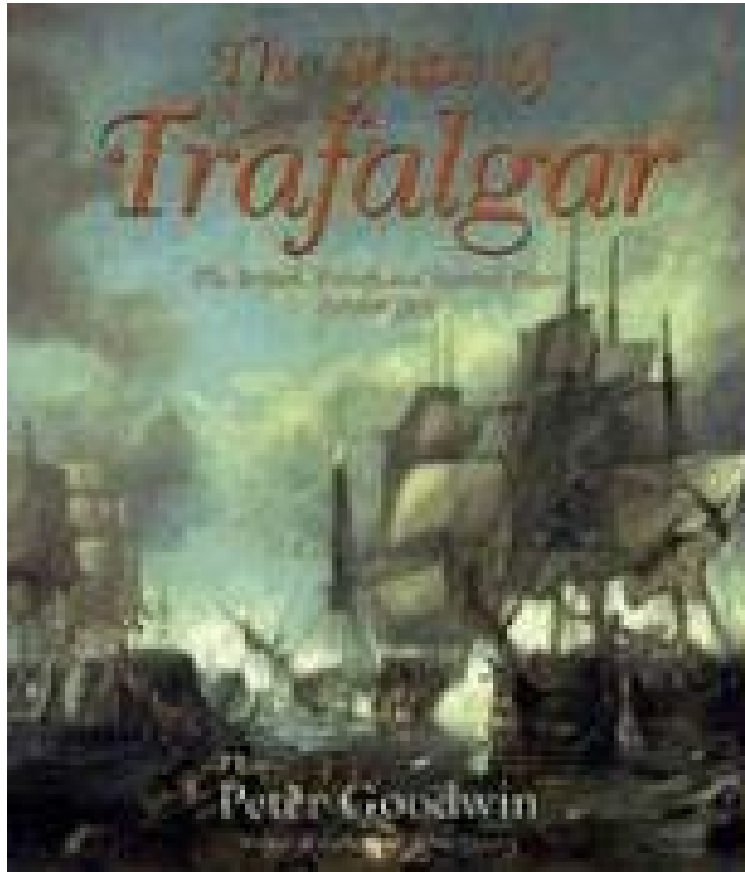


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Ships of Trafalgar: The British, French and Spanish Fleets, October 1805

Peter Goodwin

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Peter Goodwin : Ships of Trafalgar: The British, French and Spanish Fleets, October 1805 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ships of Trafalgar: The British, French and Spanish Fleets, October 1805:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ships of Trafalgar - An Excellent Reference BookBy Vol WI love this book. As an age of fighting sail modeler I had been looking for a good reference for all of the data, plans and construction for Napoleonic era ships. While this book only covers the ships that participated at the battle of Trafalgar, the wealth of information it contains far surpassed my expectations. The only negative thing I can think of to say is that there are not more volumes to cover the ships every other important battle of the era.11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Abundant written detail, visually a little disappointingBy ACWhile this book did indeed contain a wealth of written detail of the ships, I was surprised and disappointed to find that aside from some center color plates, there was no information provided on ship color schemes and none on flags and pennants displayed. Most

particularly, the French ship *Redoubtable*, described in the book as "the most acclaimed French ship to fight at the battle of Trafalgar" had no drawings, model photographs or paintings of her appearance at the battle. Also, a map showing the development of the positions of these ships during the course of the battle would have been useful although this is available elsewhere. On the positive side, HMS *Victory* and many others were well represented by line drawings and despite a concentration on technical rather than visual information this is a useful book to those interested in the battle. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A fine naval reference book By Bruce Trinqueter Peter Goodwin's "The Ships of Trafalgar: The British, French and Spanish Fleets, October, 1805" is a fine new naval reference book. Goodwin is Keeper Curator of HMS *Victory* and the author of "The Construction and Fitting of the English Man-of-War, 1650-1850" and "Nelson's Ships: A History of the Vessels in Which He Served, 1771-1805". Like Goodwin's previous books, the present volume is large and clearly printed on heavy, glossy stock. Each vessel present at Trafalgar, whether British, French, or Spanish, from the largest First Rate down to the smallest cutter is described in careful detail, with technical specifications, service history prior to Trafalgar, a description of its activity during that battle, its service afterwards, and its ultimate fate. Many of the ships, especially those of the Royal Navy, are accompanied by plans of some sort, even if only a profile. An insert of colorful paintings and model photographs are a welcome addition to illustrate how these ships look two centuries ago. Appendices discuss comparative armament and sources of timber and fittings. There have been many "Trafalgar" books published in this bicentennial year, but few can match this book's sumptuous look and level of detail.

The Battle of Trafalgar, 21 October 1805, remains one of the defining moments in naval history. The decisive nature of the engagement, the death of Nelson and the outpouring of national grief in the aftermath have inspired a wealth of literature on the battle and many narratives have retold this famous action. However, until now no work has attempted to provide an in depth history of each of the British, French and Spanish vessels that were at the engagement. Dividing the fleets into the relevant classes by their rating, the work then proceeds to provide a service history of each individual vessel, including specifications tables, list of commanders, casualty lists and refit histories. Each class of vessel is illustrated by original plans drawn specially by the author alongside contemporary and modern images of the ships.

About the Author Peter Goodwin has been Keeper and Curator of HMS *Victory* for over ten years and is placed in an ideal position to write this definitive work. His previous publications include the critically acclaimed *The Construction and Fitting of the Sailing Man of War: 1650-1850* and *Countdown to Victory: 101 Questions and Answers about HMS Victory*. His most recent book, *Nelson's Ships*, has been received with wide critical acclaim. He has also published *The Naval Cutter Alert 1777*, *The 20 gun ship Blandford 1719* and *The Bomb Vessel Granado 1742* in the Conway 'Anatomy of the Ship' series. He has contributed to the journals *Model Shipwright* and *the Mariner's Mirror* and has worked on many ship restoration or replication projects, television documentaries and film work, including serving as an advisor to the acclaimed *Hornblower* series. He is a keen re-enactor and enjoys sailing in square-riggers.