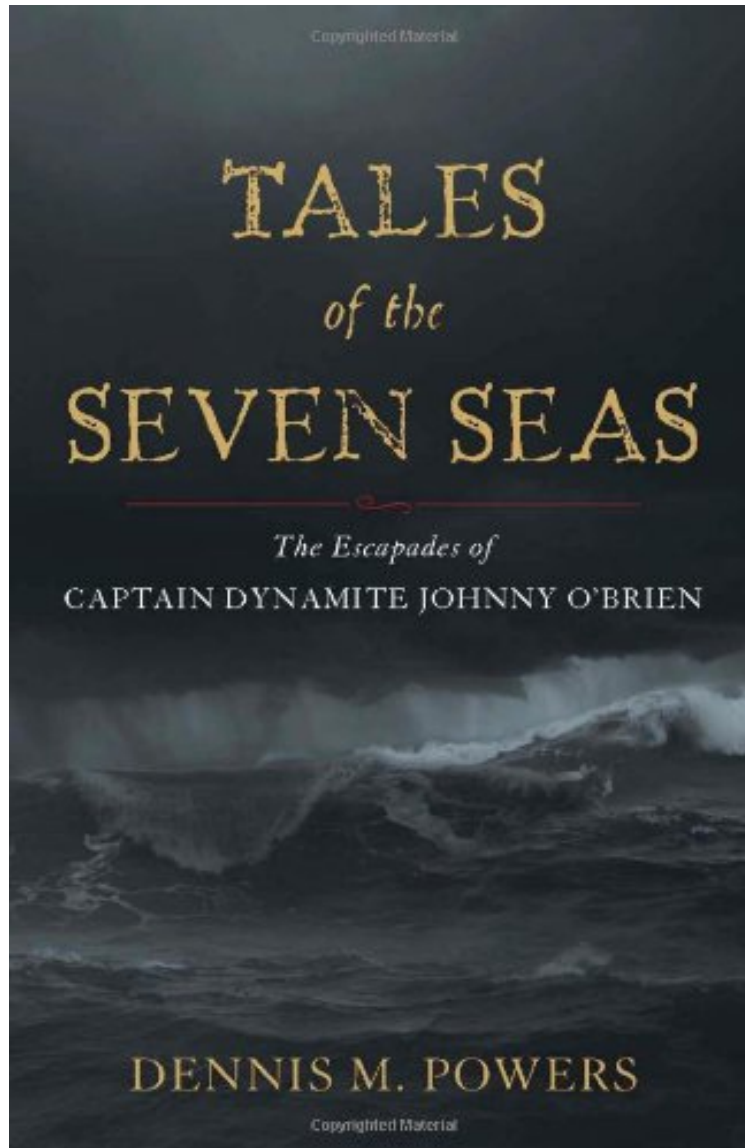


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Tales of the Seven Seas: The Escapades of Captain Dynamite Johnny O'Brien

Dennis M. Powers

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Dennis M. Powers : Tales of the Seven Seas: The Escapades of Captain Dynamite Johnny O'Brien before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tales of the Seven Seas: The Escapades of Captain Dynamite Johnny O'Brien:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another Great Book About The OceansBy Ron JaneHave read four

of this authors previous books. Taking The Sea, Treasure Ship, The Raging Sea, Sentinel of the Seas, and this book. The writers style on all books mentioned is very informative with no puffery and no endless stretching. This book is just excellent for anyone interested in the dangers of sea travel back in the day before accurate ocean charts and laws to protect seamen. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A riveting read of high seas adventure. By Paul McFarland If you enjoy the work of Patrick O'Brian or C. S. Forester you are going to love this book. Plus it has the advantage of being true. It would almost have to be - I am not sure I would accept a captain in fiction going into a dark hold to deal with two bears that have broken loose from their cages and are threatening to eat up the cattle that make up the rest of the cargo. But that is just what Captain Johnny O'Brien did. His crew lowered him into the hold in the dark clutching a lantern with two pistols and a knife in his belt. Captain Dynamite Johnny O'Brien, the name resulted from his preventing a cargo of explosive from destroying a ship, was a working seaman from 1866 till his death in 1931. Over 60 years of following the sea. Starting as the lowest "boy" before the mast and ending up as a captain of huge steamships. He worked and mastered every type of vessel in service during these years. Throughout this fine book which was assembled from his own journals and logbooks by Dennis M. Powers we see the scope of the man himself. A powerful man who believed in doing the right thing and as the author states feared nothing but God. The addition by the author of newspaper clippings and writings about the captain by others serves to round out the portrait of the man. Through the course of his career he met and influenced many powerful men both in the world of shipbuilding and development and in the general world as well. He was good friends with Jack London and may have provided him with some of the material for *The Sea Wolf*. At the close of his seafaring days he also served as a technical advisor for Buster Keaton's film *The Navigator*. But the real power and strength of this book does not lie with great deeds or powerful friends. It is with the insight into the day to day work and danger that made up a life at sea during the late 19th and early 20th century. This is a stunningly good book and I would recommend it to anyone who loves a good yarn. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A look at Tales of the Seven Seas By W. B. Swain For those that read and enjoy sailing adventure novels such as C. S. Forester's *Horatio Hornblower* series or Patrick O'Brian's *Jack Aubrey* series, *TALES OF THE SEVEN SEAS* will add a great deal of real life detail that such adventures necessarily omit. Rough men, working under almost impossible conditions accomplishing amazing goals all driven by the personality and skill of the real life Captain, Dynamite Johnny O'Brien. And the reader is there with them, feeling and seeing what conditions were like in the old sailing ship days as ocean commerce transitioned into steam. Very good detail on what life was like in that era not only aboard ship but also a look at conditions faced by the men taking part in the gold rush to Alaska. Captain Dynamite Johnny came into close contact with a number of well known names of the time and apparently influenced them in powerful ways. His acquaintance with Jack London, for example, with his tales of his First Mate Wolf O'Malley were apparently used later by London in his story *Wolf of the Sea*. I came across several technical errors concerning the handling of the sails but they are of minor import. However I cannot gloss over the statement that a chronograph was "an accurate clock used to determine direction." A chronograph is indeed an accurate clock but its use is far more important; it is used to determine Longitude. *TALES OF THE SEVEN SEAS* belongs in the permanent library of anyone interested in the old sailing ships and the men who sailed them. It ranks along with *Last of the Cape Horners*, *First hand accounts of commercial tall ships*, edited by Spenser Apollonio; *The Bounty*; true story of Mutiny on the *Bounty* by Caroline Alexander and *In the Heart of the Sea* Tragedy of the Whaleship *Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick. I know I will enjoy frequently dipping into Dennis Powers' delightful book.

Captain Dynamite Johnny O'Brien sailed the seven seas for over sixty years, starting in the late 1860s in India and ending in 1930 on the U.S. West Coast. He sailed every type of ship imaginable, but this book is more than the story of Captain O'Brien's incredible feats. *Tales of the Seven Seas* is about sailing over the ocean in times when danger and adventure coexisted on a daily basis. Readers are to smell the salt in the air and hear the ocean's rush as a ship plows its way through heavy seas with hardened men, leaking seams, and shrieking winds. These true stories are about tough times and courageous men in distant places, from the Hawaiian Islands to the Bering Sea, from the waning days of sail to the age of steamships.

Tales of the Seven Seas is a fascinating read about an incredibly colorful Captain, Johnny O'Brien, who seemed to have nine lives, each filled with fun, danger, and excitement. Author Dennis M. Power's meticulous research and fine writing brings to life a seafaring era from clipper ships to ocean liners, with Captain O'Brien at the helm guiding us on a voyage of adventure. (Michael J. Tougas, author of *Overboard!*, *Fatal Forecast*, and *Ten Hours Until Dawn*) In *Tales of the Seven Seas*, Dennis Powers adds to his reputation as a raconteur of high-seas stories with this portrait of Dynamite Johnny O'Brien, a five-foot, five-inch seadog who was larger than life despite his diminutive size. Powers chronicles O'Brien's adventures from the tropics to the rowdy gold fields of Alaska and California, with a brief side trip to the Wild West saloons of Fort Laramie. Along the way, O'Brien dispenses two-fisted justice to surly seamen, pilots his ships through deadly perils, and crosses paths with the likes of Jack London and Buster Keaton. Powers' latest is a welcome find for anyone seeking a rollicking tale of maritime adventure. (Willie Drye) This is a rare treasure

indeed from Davy Jones' mythical locker: an authentic maritime narrative that reads like fiction but is fact. With clear, strong and highly descriptive writing, Powers has painstakingly recreated the exciting life and adventures of a great mariner and master, and the gritty, dangerous, and exciting times he lived in. Old salts and lubbers alike can take pleasure in the vivid descriptions, crisp dialogue, and frightening and sometimes comical adventures of his hero, O'Brien. Here is a portrait of a man and his age, for all their flaws and shortcomings. If modern communications, transportation, and maritime technology mean we can no longer recreate in life such iron men in their wooden ships, at least we can enjoy their brief literary resurrection in the pages of books by authors such as Powers. (Marc Songini, author of *The Lost Fleet*)...[a] fascinating portrait of a colorful captain in a last days of sail and the early days of steam. Very entertaining. (OldSaltBlog.com)...[N]o author is more qualified or more skilled at telling a good seafaring tale. Once they set sail, readers will never forget crossing the seven seas with Captain Dynamite Johnny O'Brien. (BloggingAuthors.com)Incredibly detailed and well researched.... (The Internet Of Books)This book is a true treasure that gives those who dare to navigate its perilous waters a satisfying, but secure, peek into the enthralling world of the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth-century mariner. (Pirates and Privateers)Tales of the Seven Seas features a larger-than-life hero. Although Capt. O'Brien's exploits sound like fiction, maritime writer Dennis M. Powers has grounded the biography firmly in fact. Dennis Powers...writes with considerable skill. (Oregonian)History can be a difficult subject for writers to make interesting, but there is nothing dry about this thrilling tale of seafaring life. It's true that the story of Johnny O'Brien is naturally interesting on its own, but Powers shows how, with skilled writing, historical research can be woven into a fascinating narrative. Stories like this are what turn people into legends, and Powers does so here, escalating the life of Captain Dynamite Johnny O'Brien to that status. (Curled Up With A Good Book)From the Back Cover. "Tales of the Seven Seas is a fascinating read about an incredibly colorful Captain, Johnny O'Brien, who seemed to have nine lives, each filled with fun, danger, and excitement. Author Dennis M. Powers' meticulous research and fine writing brings to life a seafaring era from clipper ships to ocean liners, with Captain O'Brien at the helm guiding us on a voyage of adventure." --Michael J. Tougias, author of *Overboard!*, *Fatal Forecast*, and *Ten Hours Until Dawn*. . "This is a rare treasure indeed from Davy Jones' mythical locker: an authentic maritime narrative that reads like fiction but is fact. With clear, strong, and highly descriptive writing, Powers has painstakingly recreated the exciting life and adventures of a great mariner and master, and the gritty, dangerous, and exciting times he lived in. Old salts and lubbers alike can take pleasure in the vivid descriptions, crisp dialogue, and frightening--and sometime comical--adventures of his hero, O'Brien. Here is a portrait of a man and his age, for all their flaws and shortcomings..." -- Marc Songini, author of *The Lost Fleet*. . "In *Tales of the Seven Seas*, Dennis Powers adds to his reputation as a raconteur of high-seas stories...Powers chronicles O'Brien's adventures from the tropics to the rowdy gold fields of Alaska, with a brief side trip to the Wild West saloons of Fort Laramie. Along the way, O'Brien dispenses two-fisted justice to surly seamen, pilots his ships through deadly perils, and crosses paths with the likes of Jack London and Buster Keaton. Powers' latest is a welcome find for anyone seeking a rollicking tale of maritime adventure." -- Willie Drye, contributing editor for *National Geographic News* and author of *Storm of the Century*.About the AuthorDennis M. Powers is the author of ten books, including his most recent maritime ones, *The Raging Sea*, *Treasure Ship*, *Sentinel of the Seas*, *Taking the Sea*, and *Tales of the Seven Seas*. His books have resulted in being on a national book tour, regional ones, and extensively featured in media ranging from CNN and NPR to USA Today, *Extra!*, and *Hard Copy*, including international coverage.