

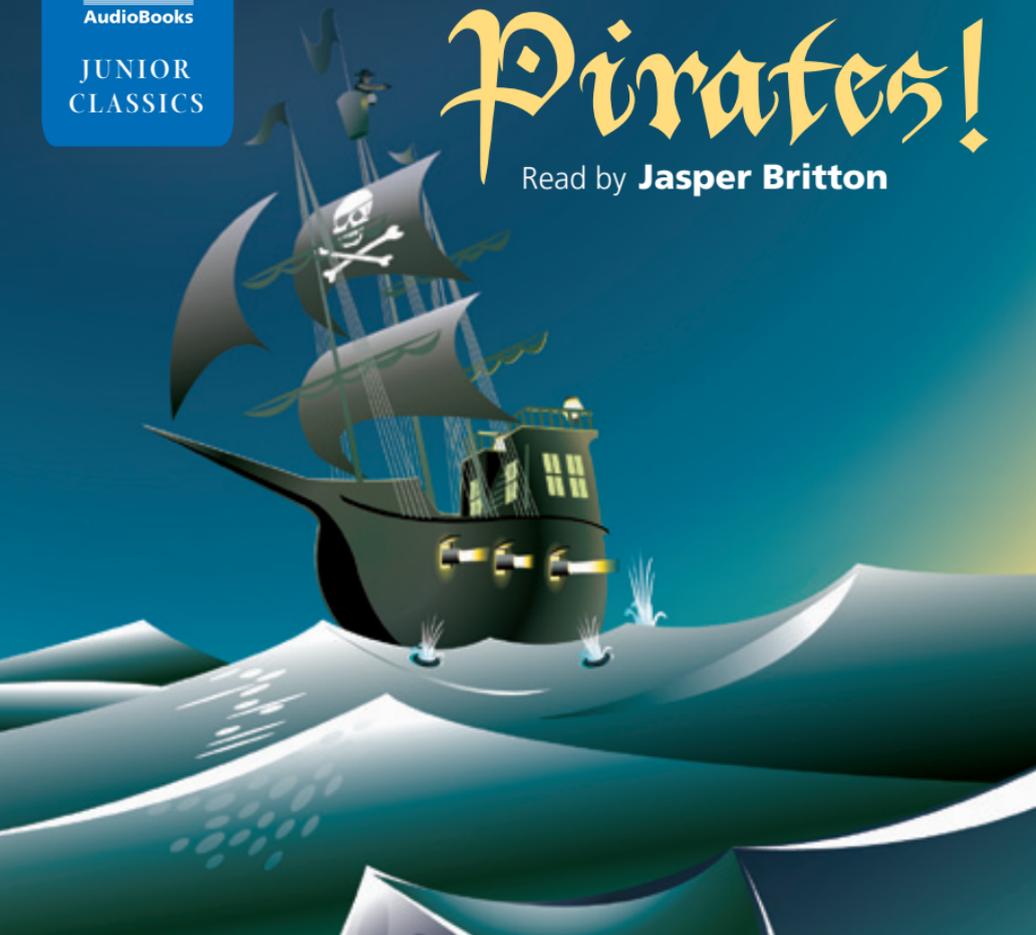
**NAXOS**  
AudioBooks

JUNIOR  
CLASSICS

Roy McMillan

# Pirates!

Read by **Jasper Britton**



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1	Setting Out	5:47
2	Pirates in the Ancient World	5:57
3	No-one is certain who these 'sea people' were...	5:53
4	The Barbary Corsairs	3:00
5	The Barbarossa Brothers (c. 1470–1546)	4:43
6	The Barbarossas left an impressive legacy...	5:09
7	Jack 'Birdy' Ward (c. 1553–1622)	5:26
8	He had become something of a Robin Hood figure...	3:42
9	Pirates of the Caribbean	4:56
10	Sir Francis Drake (1540–1596)	5:49
11	Gruesome Alert!	1:26
12	Sir Henry Morgan (1635–1688)	3:14
13	Captain William Kidd (c. 1645–1701)	7:53
14	Blackbeard (c. 1680–1718)	7:33
15	Generally, pirates preferred to intimidate their enemies...	6:46
16	By Hook or By Crook – Howell Davis (c. 1690–1719)	1:58
17	Howell Davis ctd. Recognising his own skill at charm and deceit...	2:08
18	Bartholomew Roberts (1682–1722)	5:21
19	Gruesome Alert! Edward Low (c. 1690 – c. 1724) and Daniel Montbars (1645 – c. 1707)	2:30

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20	The Articles	7:22
21	Gruesome Alert!	1:30
22	Bang! Bang! You're Dead	6:52
23	Pieces of Eight and X Doesn't Mark the Spot	3:44
24	Gruesome Alert! François l'Olonnais (c. 1635–1688)	3:18
25	Stede Bonnet (c. 1688–1718)	4:34
26	Not-so-Jolly Roger	3:14
27	John Rackham – Calico Jack (1682–1720)	2:22
28	Here Come the Girls...	1:00
29	Anne Bonny (1702–1782)	3:23
30	Mary Read (c. 1695–1721)	6:42
31	Grace O'Malley (c. 1530–1603)	4:25
32	The South China Seas and Lai Choi San	2:29
33	Gruesome Alert!	1:05
34	The Greatest Pirate Ever: Cheng I Sao (1775–1844)	7:54
35	John Boysie Singh (1908–1957)	1:53
36	Gruesome Alert!	0:53
37	Piracy Now: Plus Ça Change	2:32
38	The End of the Voyage	3:31

**Total time: 2:38:15**

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Roy McMillan

# Pirates!

If you think of the word 'piracy', the chances are that one of two things will occur to you. One is a free music or video file available via the Web; the other is someone on a boat with a big beard holding a sword and shouting 'Aharrrr, me hearties!' The two are actually linked. There's still a lot of piracy about, even if less of it these days involves boats. Film piracy, music piracy, software piracy, Internet piracy: if it can be pirated, it will be. Nowadays, pirating generally means to copy something illegally and sell it on (or just pass it on without paying the owner for it), but the link with the bearded, shouting man is in the name. It's called 'piracy' rather than just stealing or theft, and this might be because pirates have always had a particular place in people's imagination.

They have a reputation as freedom-

loving folk who steal from those who, apparently, deserve it – or at least from those who have a lot of money anyway, so won't miss a bit. Pirates are thought of as dashing and outside the law. When music and film piracy first became a problem, those who were doing it used to claim that they were stopping really rich corporations from getting even richer. As a result, although the corporations want to call it 'copyright theft' (which, after all, is what it is), everyone else calls it 'piracy' because it seems a bit like the rather romantic idea of old-fashioned pirates. And it's the old-fashioned (but still thriving) pirates that *Pirates!* is about.

As it turns out, old-fashioned pirates were rarely romantic; but they still remain hugely popular and appealing characters. For centuries they have featured in fiction (from adventure stories like *Treasure*

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*Island* to pantomimes such as *Peter Pan*) and they have inspired literally hundreds of films. They are now so much a part of everyday culture that you'll find pirates at theme parks, water parks, ports, naval exhibitions, lakeside amusements – in fact, pretty much anywhere where there's a boat, and often where there isn't. Many people are so familiar with the way in which they think pirates used to talk that you can use a popular Internet search engine in pirate jargon; and there is even an 'International Talk Like a Pirate Day' when everyone is supposed to greet their friends with 'Aharrrr, shipmates!' (it's on September 19th).

A lot of this is to do with *Treasure Island*. The book was a huge success when it was published in 1883, and it introduced to the public many features of pirate lore that we take for granted now: the peg-leg, the eye-patch, the map, the buried treasure, the drinking and general wildness of the pirates, and many of the phrases (such as 'Shiver my timbers!'). Then the various films of the book promoted the idea of a gnarled, west-of-England accent thanks to the actors

Lionel Barrymore and Robert Newton; and thereafter, the public notion of pirate-speak has been getting more and more popular, and more and more fixed.

But as this history of pirates explains, much of this seemingly fictional myth had a good deal of truth behind it, with pirates saying things that sound just like lines from films ('Damnation seize my soul if I give you quarters, or take any from you!'); and the things that weren't in the popular myths were often even more extraordinary – try listening to the stories of Anne Bonny and Mary Read or Stede Bonnet, for instance.

The books and films are obviously written and made because people want to hear about pirates, and they're thrilling, brilliant tales. But the real-life tales of *all* the pirates were as dramatic, astonishing and comic as anything a writer could think up. And it's the dramatic, astonishing, comic or eye-popping truth that you'll hear about in *Pirates!*.

There are stories about the most famous, most unusual, most unpleasant, most successful pirates that have ever sailed a ship, as well as a couple of

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pirates who didn't really make the grade as terrifying adventurers but are worth hearing about anyway. Many of the best-known ones are here of course: Blackbeard, Barbarossa, Captain Kidd, Captain Morgan and so on; but hopefully there will be a few whom you haven't heard much about, and possibly some who are completely unknown to you – which might just include the most successful pirate ever. To warn you about any approaching horrible bits, you'll get a 'Gruesome Alert!'

There is a brief guide to piracy from the very earliest times, as well as information about how it developed in different parts of the world; how it has been suppressed and keeps coming back; how the 'Golden Age' in the Caribbean came about; and how it was that very often pirates were actually given permission or even encouraged to attack other ships – they were basically working for their governments! There's a look at why people became pirates in the first place (would you choose to become a burglar?); what life was like on board (if you were lucky, not too bad, and probably better

than being in the Navy); what happened when ships attacked (a lot of noise, smoke, confusion and death, generally); and whether the most famous stories about pirates are true (such as maps, buried treasure and pieces of eight).

There is also a look at the fact that pirates are still operating today and using almost the same methods as they did thousands of years ago. Nowadays you can employ special security services to help protect you and your crew if they are sailing through pirate-infested waters, and it's probably worth the several thousand pounds a day it will cost: today's pirates are just as likely to kill or kidnap as any of those in the past. This is not virtual piracy; this is very much the real thing.

**Notes by Roy McMillan**

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## Pirates Glossary

*Splice the Mainbrace* Literally, to repair one of the biggest and most important ropes on a sailing ship (a very difficult thing to do). Once it was successfully done, the captain would offer the crew a drink as a reward. As a result, the phrase now tends to mean simply 'Let's have a drink'.

*Davy Jones's Locker* A sailor's term for the bottom of the sea, and usually about something that is lost forever or a person who has died at sea. If 'He's gone to Davy Jones's Locker', he's drowned.

*Scupper* To destroy a ship deliberately in order to stop anyone else taking possession of it.

*Port* The left-hand side of a ship or boat if you're on it facing forwards.

*Starboard* The right-hand side of a ship or boat if you're on it facing forwards.

*Broadside* All the guns on one side of a ship firing at the same time.

*Booty* Anything valuable taken by force or illegally; much the same as 'Loot'.

*Loot* Much the same as 'Booty'. Anything valuable taken illegally; or, if used as a verb, the process of taking it.

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*Safe Haven* For pirates, a harbour in a town where they knew no-one was going to try to arrest them.

*Flintlock Pistol* An old-fashioned gun that could only fire one bullet before it had to be reloaded.

*Cutlass* A sword, quite heavy and short, and usually curved.

*Gibbet* A wooden frame for hanging people on; a gallows.

*Junk* A traditional Chinese sailing ship, usually with a high pointed front, and a flat bottom.

*Pillage* To rob a place ruthlessly and with violence.

*Hatches* The openings in the top deck that allow people and cargo to get to the lower parts of the ship.



*Flintlock Pistol*



*Cutlass*



*Junk*



*Gibbet*

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**Jasper Britton's** theatre credits include *Macbeth* and *The Tempest* at Shakespeare's Globe, *Oedipus* and *Fram* at the National Theatre, *Richard III* at Regent's Park, *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Royal Shakespeare Company and *Bedroom Farce* at Aldwych Theatre. His film credits include *The New World* and *Morris: A Life With Bells On*. He has read *Treasure Island* and *Gulliver's Travels* for Naxos AudioBooks.



**Roy McMillan** is a director, writer, actor and abridger. For Naxos Audiobooks he has read *The Body Snatcher and Other Stories*, *Bulldog Drummond*, *The French Revolution – In a Nutshell*, *Cathedrals – In a Nutshell* and the introductions to works by Nietzsche and the Ancient Greeks. He has directed readings of Hardy, Hopkins, Kipling, Milton and Blake; Austen, Murakami, Conrad and Bulgakov, among many others; and has written podcasts and sleevenotes, as well as biographies of Milton and Poe. He has also directed plays for Radio 3 and Radio 4.

## Credits

Produced by Roy McMillan

Recorded at Motivation Sound Studios, London

Edited by Sarah Butcher

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Roy McMillan

# Pirates!

Read by **Jasper Britton**

Which pirate incubated chickens in camel-dung? What would Blackbeard do if you didn't hand over your jewellery (it wasn't nice)? Which pirate was called 'The Exterminator'? Where's the treasure buried? Why were two women dressed as men on the same pirate ship? Who made the Jolly Roger famous? And who was the greatest pirate ever?

This 2-CD history answers all these questions and many more; it is the ideal introduction to the facts behind the great legends of piracy. Whatever you think you know about pirates, the truth is even more extraordinary!



**Jasper Britton's** theatre credits include *Macbeth* and *The Tempest* at Shakespeare's Globe, *Oedipus* and *Fram* at the National Theatre and *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Royal Shakespeare Company. His film credits include *The New World*.

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