



The Treasure of Dead Man's Chest

Roger L. Johnson

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While searching through the 1919 Parliamentary records for quotes by Winston Churchill, U.S. Navy Commander Roger Johnson happened upon a seventy page hand-written transcript of a Royal Admiralty hearing. This hearing dealt with the near-sinking of H.M.S. King James, a British man-of-war. The document was of only passing interest until the Commander came across the words to a seamens' ballad entitled, "Fifteen Men on a Dead Man's Chest," and a description of events that matched in every detail the novel "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson. Sandwiched within the testimony of Royal Navy Lieutenant James Hawkins, *Dead Man's Chest* is a classic pirate yarn that begins with long John Silver's escape from the merchantman Hispaniola at Peurta Plata and culminates with the American Revolution more than a decade later. It describes in rich detail the unholy alliance formed between this soft-hearted cut-throat, his teenage nephew, David Noble, and the slaver-turned-merchant captain, John Paul Jones to retrieve a king's ransom of Spanish gold and jewels from Dead Man's Chest; the other two-thirds of the treasure described in Stevenson's novel, and the inspiration for the sailor's ballad by the same name. John Paul Jones became one of the greatest naval heroes of the American Revolution, but much of his life remains shrouded in mystery...until now. "Dead Man's Chest" explains how this Scottish fugitive earned a naval commission. More importantly, the novel illuminates a hitherto unknown thirty-month period in John Paul's career. From November 1773 when he killed a mutineer to June 1775 when he received his naval commission in Philadelphia from Thomas Jefferson. Learn how the contract that he and John Silver made with the American founding fathers impacted the lives of the Colonists and ultimately helped win America's freedom from Mother England. If you enjoyed the novels of Patrick O' Brian, you'll love "Dead Man's Chest."

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