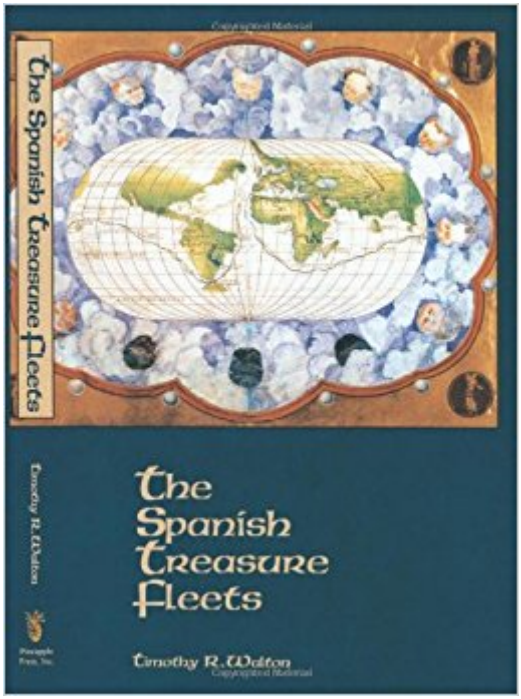
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The Spanish Treasure Fleets



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Synopsis

Europe was bursting with energy in the late15th century, but progress was being hindered by a shortage of reliable currency. Columbus was aware of this, and one of the main goals of his voyage was to find gold. The first large amounts of precious metals from the New World were the plunder that came from the Spanish victory over the Aztecs and Incas. Mints in the colonies began producing large numbers of silver pieces of eight, which became the main cargo of the treasure fleets and a standard currency all over the world. But Spain lacked the resources and knowledge to retain control The glittering streams of wealth from the New World became an irresistible temptation to other European powers, and adventurers such as England’s Sir Francis Drake began successful attacks on the ports and ships of the treasure fleets. Storms and deadly reefs claimed countless other ships. By the early 1700s Spain had lost its monopoly on world trade and other countries were laying claim to colonies in the New World. The pieces of eight survived to become the model of the American silver dollar. Tales of fabulous Spanish treasure fleets kept memories alive. After World War II divers using new technology began finding not only large amounts of silver and gold but also valuable information about the history of Europe’s influence on the world. The mysteries of treasure known to exist but not yet discovered continue to fascinate to this day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Walton, a historian and avid coin collector, states in the very first sentence, "This is a book about money." Walton chronicles Spain’s exploitation of the mineral wealth of Latin America for over 300

years, showing how that wealth transformed the world financial markets. The treasure fleets transported silver and gold mined in Peru and New Spain in large convoys twice yearly to Europe and Asia. This silver, mainly in the form of eight real pieces (pieces of eight), was then circulated worldwide by trade, laying the groundwork for our precious metal-based economic system today. Walton focuses more on political and economic activites in Europe, only briefly mentioning the disastrous impact this system had upon the indigenous peoples. Extensive footnotes and detailed reading lists are supplied with each chapter. Armchair sailors who have read the works of C.S. Forester, Alexander Kent, or Dudley Pope will find this fascinating reading. Recommended for both academic and public libraries.John Kenny, San Francisco, P.L.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent history of early coinage and the Spanish conquest of the central Americas. The book is very well structured, and informative taking you thru the circumstances and reasons why the Spaniards of the 15 & 16th century established themselves in the present day countries of Mexico, Dominican Republic, Columbia, Florida, Peru, and southeast Islands. The author will explain the relationship of Spain’s leadership with regard to other countries in Europe, and Asia. It came down to gathering Silver to feed the economy of Spain, Eurpoe and the various brutal wars of that time

An excellent reference. Very well written and easy to read. My only nit-pick is that the author refers to the 8 reales coin as a peso throughout the book. As a collector of 8 reales coins I found that to be a minor annoyance but most likely few others would care. The publisher could have done a better job - most of the photos were poorly printed and almost illegible, although it was possible to Google the images from the titles and/or descriptions and see them clearly. A color version of the book, perhaps hardbound, would be much better. Overall an excellent book and worth reading.

I found this work very informative and it kept my attention throughout. I am a collector of colonial Spanish coinage and it was nice to read more of in depth study into the history of its exchange. It helped me connect with the history of the coins in my possession.There are lots of facts and numbers so prepare for that. But nonetheless it’s not hard to follow.

An excellent read and lots of interesting information on a topic in history that I have always wanted to know more about. Good for history buffs and coin collectors alike!

Certainly one of the best written, researched and most interesting books I've read in a decade. I sent a copy to my friend in prison, he loved it too. I wish the author would write another one.

The synopsis on the kindle view does not match the book's title or author. Additionally, can't get the kindle version to load at all - only the sample. Please advise. Thanks

Very comprehensive.

Great listing with accuracy, Have not finished yet and can not set book down. Book condition was accurately described, The price was right.

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