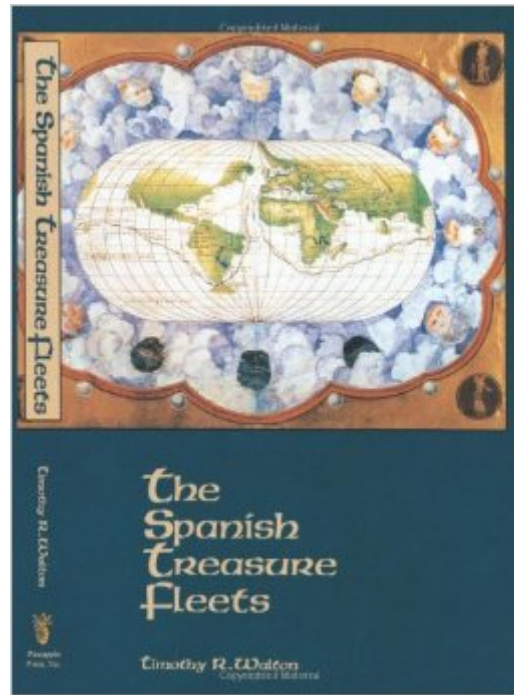


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# The Spanish Treasure Fleets



## Synopsis

Europe was bursting with energy in the late 15th 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

It is indeed! It is a book about the unbelievable efforts made to transport gold and silver from New Spain and Peru to Spain between the 15th and 18th century, how these precious metals initiated

worldwide commerce, about the rise and fall of the Spanish/ Habsburg empire and how it helped European countries to become economic and political world powers. Waltons book moves through three centuries of world history in an appropriate pace, without leaving out interesting details. It simply is a fascinating book!

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.

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.

Tim Watson's *The Spanish Treasure Fleets* is one of the most entertaining, well-researched, and fun-to-read books I have read in ages. His coverage of first the rise and then the inevitable decline of the Spanish Empire among the untold millions of dollars in gold & silver is an incredible tale of not only greed, rape and torture of native peoples but also a story of almost unfathomable ignorance, stupidity, and incompetence of the Spanish government. His portrayal of the English & Dutch "pirates" who were constantly harassing the fleets unfolds like a true buccaneer story. And his

weaving of the way the Spanish Pillar Dollars became the first true world currency amid the crumbling infrastructure of its namesake makes one reflect on our own future. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys history and regard it as a must read for all numismatists.

Still pondering over the wealth under the seas....Makes you think....makes you look back and ruminate as if you could have been one of those who sailed across the wide Pacific. It is a good read, better than most

Awesome book. Very well accomplished. Often times we take for granted what we have. Such is the case of money. Money has been around in one way or another for millenia. But it would not have acquired its modern form had it not been for the Spanish Treasure Fleets.

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