



# Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

Alberto Manguel

Léonard Pouy

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- First volume of a new series
- Preface by Alberto Manguel
- Unpublished drawings of David B.

In July 1880, 30-year-old Robert Louis Stevenson, yielding to the insistence of Lloyd Osbourne, his 13-year-old adopted son, and starting from a map he had drawn for Lloyd, began to tell an adventure of pirates and buried treasure. The tale flowed so naturally that Stevenson decided to put it on paper. When the last chapter was also published in *Young Folks* magazine, Stevenson decided to change the title to the book and call it **Treasure Island**. In his hands, the children's adventure had incredibly transformed into an epic exploration of the ambiguity of moral values and the dual essence of human nature. Because of its value and fascination, **Treasure Island** was chosen to start the "Dédale" series, in which it is illustrated by the unpublished drawings of French illustrator David B. and enriched by a preface signed by the well-known writer Alberto Manguel, followed by an introduction by Léonard Pouy, focusing on the significance of treasures in our culture.

**Robert Louis Stevenson** was born in Edinburgh in 1850, and in his many wanderings, his love for Scotland never waned. His ancestors were lighthouse builders, and in a poem he celebrates "the towers we founded and the lamps we lit." He studied engineering and law, but soon discovered that his calling was literature. He was an architect of style. He believed that the practice of prose was more difficult than that of verse, since prose demands continuous, pleasing, and concatenated variations. He was driven south by the respiratory disease from which he suffered; he traveled in Belgium, France, and Switzerland, always painting and writing. He married the American widow Fanny Osbourne in 1880, and in fact, *Treasure Island* is dedicated to her son Lloyd. His life was largely an exodus in search of good health and in 1890 he settled in Upolu, the main island of Samoa, where he lived until his death in Vaillima on December 4, 1894. The natives had nicknamed him Tusitala, the Storyteller. In his vast body of work, his most famous novel was perhaps *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, which contains history, drama, the critical or autobiographical essay, the short story, the novel and verse.

**Alberto Manguel** is an Argentine-Canadian writer, translator, and critic. He has published both fiction and non-fiction, and received numerous international awards, among them the Formentor Prize in 2017 and the Gutenberg Prize in 2018. As an adolescent, in Buenos Aires, from 1965-1969, he read aloud to the blind Jorge Luis Borges. Until August 2018, he was the director of the Argentine National Library. He has lived in Paris, London, Milan, Tahiti, Toronto, New York, and now Lisbon. He occupied the "Europe: Languages and Literatures" chair at the Collège de France from 2021-2022. He is currently the director of Espaço Atlântida: Centro de Estudos da História da Leitura in Lisbon.

**Léonard Pouy** is Content and Transmission Manager at L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts. Having studied the looters and plunderers of the Thirty Years' War for his doctoral thesis in art history (at Paris-Sorbonne and the University of Geneva), he then turned his attention to the former "Pirate Coast," now the western shore of the Arabo-Persian Gulf, as curator of the exhibition *Pearl Merchants, a Rediscovered Saga Between the Gulf & France at the Dawn of the 20th century* (2019). A specialist in the history of jewelry, his latest book is *Paris, City of Pearls* (2024). **David B.** is a comic book artist and writer. After training in applied arts at the Duperré school, he published his first album, *Le Timbre maudit* (Bayard), in 1986. Along with J.-C. Menu, Stanislas, Matt Konture, Killoffer, and Lewis Trondheim he is one of the founding members of L'Association, a famous French comic book publisher. It has released a number of his works, including *L'Ascension du Haut Mal* (Epileptic), his greatest success to date, from 1996 to 2004. Considered one of the masterpieces of modern comics, this album won many international awards, as well as the Scenario Prize at the Angoulême Festival in 2000. Invited by the High Jewelry Maison Van Cleef & Arpels to share his vision of Robert Louis Stevenson's story, David B. has produced a series of colored illustrations.