



*Given by Capt. J. & Mr. W. Bones Master of the "Batavia"
 Savannah this twenty July 1754 N. B.*

*Facsimile of chart, latitude and
 longitude studied struck out by J. Hawkins*



Introduction



It happened in 1750. It was the year that Western civilization started its recovery from a war, commonly known as King George's War, between the great powers of England and Spain that had lasted nine years and left many in physical, psychological or financial ruin. It was also in this year that a wealthy Spanish captain named Juan Manuel Bonilla and two Englishmen, Owen Lloyd and his one-legged brother, John, would chance to meet at sea. These former enemies were diverted from their respective courses by a fearful West Indian hurricane. A huge treasure would soon change hands—involuntarily.

The incredible chain of events that began to unfold in the aftermath of this fateful encounter would lead to the burial of Spanish treasure on an uninhabited Caribbean island, and the electrifying aftermath would be remembered for many years to come. The most famous treasure map in the world, dated August 1750, would become the inspiration for a tale that would entertain millions of youngsters and adults alike for the next century. The map would also propel a struggling unknown writer to the limelight, making his name one of the most recognized in literary history: Robert Louis Stevenson.