

THE LOST TREASURES OF ISLA DEL COCO

... bound for an unknown island, and to seek for buried treasure!

Throughout centuries this small and uninhabited as well as rather peaceful island in the Pacific, far, far away from the coast has been entered by countless adventures and treasure hunters. Infamous pirates like Benito Bonito, Captain William Dampier, Edward Davis or Bennett Graham supposedly buried their treasures on that very island.

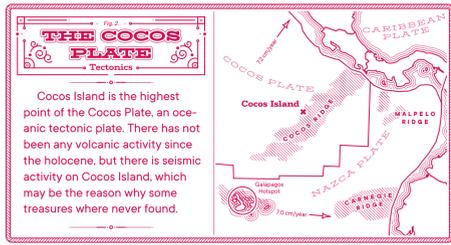
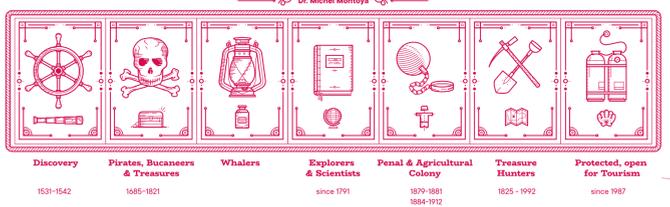
The treasure is still somewhere on Cocos Island! ... I would start looking for it all over again – if I only could.

This words are written by one of the most tragic characters of Cocos Island's history – August Gissler – in his last days.

It has been reported that over the last centuries more than 450 expeditions with the aim to lift the mysterious treasures of Cocos Island were made. And yet, many secrets remain unveiled until today.

Maps like this one kept the spirit of this treasure island alive. To continue this tradition this map tells the story of 2 big treasures which possibly are still somewhere on Cocos Island ...

7 HISTORICAL PERIODS OF COCOS ISLAND



THE TREASURES OF CAPT. BENITO BONITO

1818
1819

Bonito's treasures consists of ...

- 1781c silver dollars
- 337 jeweled splendid swords
- 763 gold bars
- 763 crucifixes
- church utensils
- gold of the Rosario

Benito Bonito (Fig. 4), a Portuguese pirate, was one of the most famous pirates who supposedly buried his treasures on COCOS ISLAND.

In 1818 and 1819 he creates 4 deposits in total, Deposito Pacifico N° 1 to 4 – with loot from various raids and robberies along the coast of South America; after boarding the brig Lightning – and renaming it Relampago (Fig. 5) – he robs gold of the Rosario, and of the Esperanza and treasury of the Church from 2 priests in TALCAHUANO. In 1819, Benito commits suicide after getting caught by the British off the coast of CUBA.



THE Bird is Gone

ⓐ Thick fog or heavy rains make Cocos Island hard to find – and therefore a perfect place to bury a secret treasure.

ⓑ In the Wafer Bay the adventurer and treasure hunter August Gissler creates a huge tunnel system by hand that is still accessible today.

ⓒ Over the past decades and centuries most of the adventurers have entered Cocos Island on the Wafer Bay which is one of the few safe landing places on the island.

ⓓ On the beaches of Chatham and Wafer Bay as well as along the River Genio hundreds of rocks engraved with names and dates bear witness to countless visitors.

ⓔ In 1793, Captain James Colnett takes pigs and goats to Cocos Island – and even plants vegetables to provide food for future whalers visiting the island. He unintentionally also brings along rats, cats and cockroaches.

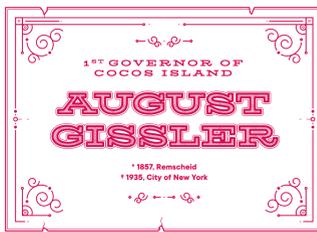
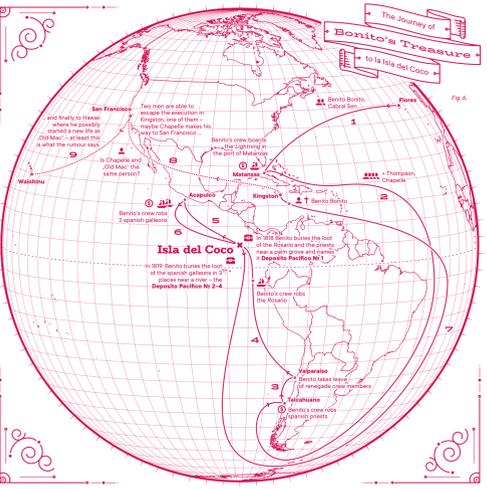
ⓕ The coasts of Cocos Island are characterized by rugged cliffs and high waterfalls which promise abundant fresh water for thirsty sailors.

ⓖ When Gissler finds this message near Cape Dampier in the bark of a palm tree, he is convinced that someone already found the treasure and finally decides to leave Cocos Island.



Fig. 8

Fig. 7



August Gissler (Fig. 8) was a German adventurer who dedicated his life to find the treasures of COCOS ISLAND. He first hears of the treasure of Benito Bonito when meeting Manoel Cabral (grandson of Cabral sen.) on his way to HAWAII and when Old Mac shows him an old treasure-map of COCOS ISLAND.

Gissler decides to find the treasure – whatever it takes. He starts several attempts to recover treasure and eventually, in 1894, even founds a "The Cocos Island Plantation Company" and later the first colony on the island with 28 German settlers. During this time Gissler

encounters many treasure hunters. One day in 1897 John Keating's widow Mary Brennan enters COCOS ISLAND, where she strives for finding the Treasure of Lima with the help of a treasure map made by John Keating. 2 months later she leaves – without a single piece of treasure in her bag.

Despite Gissler's unsuccessful hunt for treasures, he becomes the first (and only) "Governor of Cocos Island". Anyway, after nearly 20 years on the island, Gissler has to leave without lifting a treasure and nothing more than only a few little gold coins he found on the beach.



Fig. 9

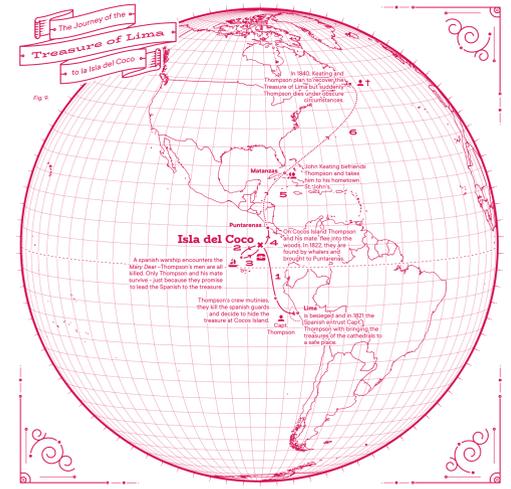
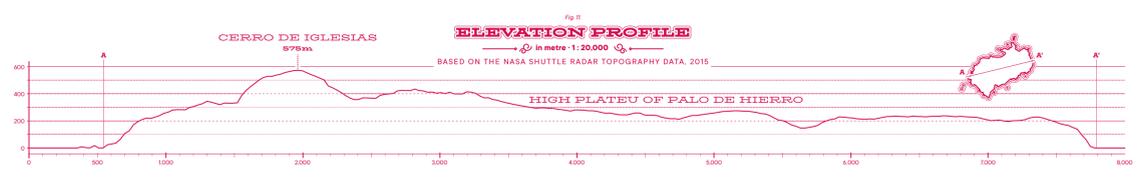


Fig. 6

Fig. 5

THE TREASURE OF THE CHURCHES OF LIMA

1821

The treasure of Lima consists of ...

- 1 2m golden statue of the virgin mary
- 9,753 gemstones and diamonds
- 22 candlesticks
- 5 golden or silver reliquary caskets
- 1,244 monstrances and chalices
- 7 crucifixes with reliquary caskets
- 64 daggers
- 124 jeweled splendid swords
- 9,000 doubloons

There are many myths about the Great Treasure of Lima during the fight for independence in PERU, LIMA was besieged and the Spanish tried to bring their riches into safety. Captain William Thompson (Fig. 7), of the british Mary Dear (Fig. 8), is said to have taken the treasure, against the orders – and maybe against his own will to – COCOS ISLAND.