My First Book—Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

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Description/Abstract
This article (after a brief introduction by Mark F. Weimer of Syracuse University) first appeared in *McClure’s Magazine* in 1894. It is the now-rare preface to the classic novel *Treasure Island*, in which Robert Louis Stevenson comments on how the novel sprang from a map he painted with the assistance of an imaginative schoolboy while recuperating from an illness. A holograph manuscript of the preface is located in the Syracuse University Libraries.

Additional Information
The text used for this article was originally published in *McClure’s Magazine* in September 1894.

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He was the first literary villain I encountered who had that ambiguity. Many of Stevenson’s conventions - one-legged pirates, hidden treasure, or maps with “X” marking the spot have shaped almost every other pirate tale since, in print and on the screen. Yet on re-reading the book it still works. For me Treasure Island was the original boy’s own story and whilst occasionally I wince at the ripe language, it remains a thoroughly enjoyable read. Mark Prisk is the Conservative parliamentary candidate for Hunstanton and Norfolk, who has been the MP since 2010. He is a former minister. TREVOR KAY: MP, TREVOR A. P., an American politician in.