My First Book—Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

Document Type
Article

Date
Fall 1986

Keywords
Syracuse University Special Collections, rare books, Robert Louis Stevenson, novelists, Treasure Island, classic literature

Language
English

Disciplines
Arts and Humanities | English Language and Literature

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.

Recommended Citation

Source
local input

Treasure Island is an adventure novel by Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson, narrating a tale of "buccaneers and buried gold." Its influence is enormous on popular perceptions of pirates, including such elements as treasure maps marked with an "X," schooners, the Black Spot, tropical islands, and one-legged seamen bearing parrots on their shoulders. Treasure Island was originally considered a coming-of-age story and is noted for its atmosphere, characters, and action. It is one of the most