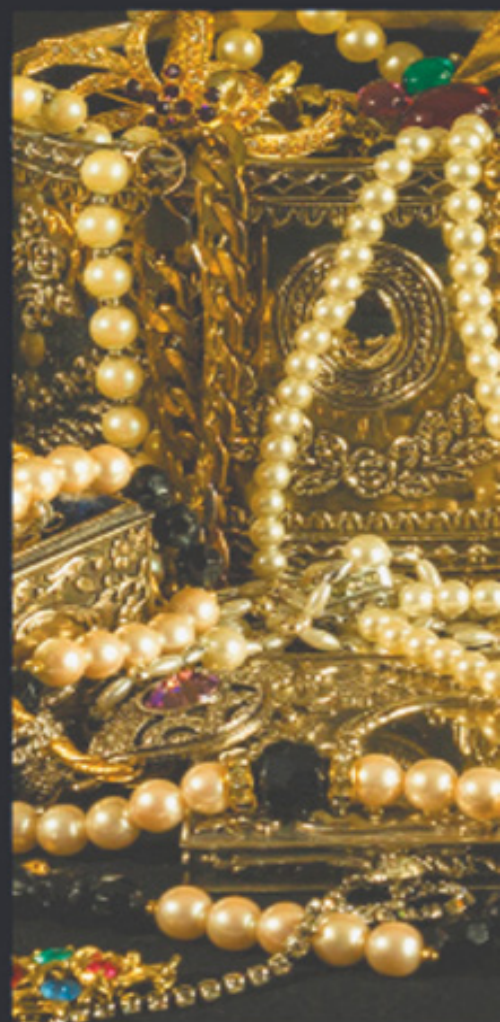


EDITED BY LINDA MAYERS



GUIDE OF THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE MISSING TREASURES

FANTASTIC HIDDEN TREASURES STOLEN OR
MISSING FROM CIRCA 200 TO THE 2010'S

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Scepter of Dagobert



Originally part of the **French Crown Jewels**, sometimes considered its oldest part, and dating from the 7th century, the scepter of Dagobert was stored in the treasure of the **Basilica of Saint-Denis** (also known as Basilique royale de Saint-Denis) until 1795, when it disappeared, stolen in the basilica and never seen again. Its name comes from **Dagobert I** (629-639), the French king for whom it was

supposedly created by master goldsmith Éloi de Noyon,
better known as **Saint Eligius**.

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Treasure of the Esperanza

During the **19th** and **20th** centuries, stories circulated in the **Pacific** of a large **treasure** of **gold**, **silver** and **precious stones** (sometimes described as **Inca treasures**) that had been looted in the **Viceroyalty of Peru**, in the Palmyra Atoll (one of the Northern Line Islands (southeast of Kingman Reef and north of Kiribati Line Islands), located almost due south of the Hawaiian Islands, roughly one-third of the way between Hawaii and American Samoa). A crew loaded it in secret onto the ship *Esperanza* in **Callao** harbor, **Peru**, and embarked into the **Pacific Ocean** on January 1, 1816 bound for the **Spanish West Indies**.

According to a survivor, seaman James Hines, the *Esperanza* was caught in a storm which **dismasted** and damaged the ship. Thus crippled, it was attacked and boarded by **pirates**, who loaded the treasure and surviving crew onto their own ship. The *Esperanza* sank, and they sailed west across the Pacific bound for **Macao**.

After 43 days, the pirates' ship met a storm, lost course, and struck hard the **coral reef** surrounding Palmyra Island, breaking the mast. The ninety men aboard were able to pull the ship in closer to land but it was not serviceable. They offloaded the treasure to the island, distributed some, and buried the rest. They repaired part of their boat and most of the crew shipped away. They were not heard from again. The remaining ten men spent most of a year on Palmyra living off of dwindling stores and local food. They spent three months building a small escape boat, and six men left