

**Volume 3**

**Number 173**

**Sir Francis Drake - II**

**Lead: Commissioned by Queen Elizabeth to forage and loot the lands of the Spanish King, Francis Drake embarked on a voyage that took him around the world.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: In 1572, after a lengthy apprenticeship, Drake took two tiny ships on a cruise into the Caribbean. His vessels may have been small but his ambition was hefty. He attacked the town of Nombre de Dios in Panama and though not completely successful since he was wounded in the**

**attempt, the foray netted substantial plunder and made him a rich man. Ever the adventurer, he and a small group of his men crossed the Isthmus of Panama and from a high western ridge vowed that he would someday explore the vast Pacific Ocean that lay before him. Elizabeth was engaged in one of her occasional diplomatic flirtations with the Spanish government and, while privately pleased at Drake's success, could not acknowledge him publicly. For several years, he dropped out of the public eye, quietly helping to suppress a rebellion in Ireland.**

**In 1577, Drake was selected to lead an expedition, or rather a raid, on the Pacific Coast of Spanish South**

**America. It turned not to be an easy voyage. Off southern Argentina, Drake discovered what he later described as a plot against him and executed the leader of the mutineers, Thomas Doughty. Then in the treacherous waters of Cape Horn at the southern tip of the continent, he became separated from the remaining ships in his tiny fleet and had to proceed alone in his flagship, *The Golden Hind*. North he sailed as far as present day Vancouver, British Columbia in search of the mythical Northwest Passage back to the Atlantic, but was frustrated and had to sail west in a seemingly endless 68 day passage to the islands off the Asian Coast. He was the first Englishman to sail the Pacific, Indian, and South Atlantic Oceans,**

**and the first to captain his own ship in circumnavigating the globe. When *The Golden Hind*, relieved of its rich cargo of booty, coasted to its birth at Depford on the Thames in early Fall 1580, Queen Elizabeth tossed aside her reluctance, came aboard herself and made the son of the tenant farmer, Sir Francis Drake. Next time: Drake and the Armada.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

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**Williamson, J.A. *The Age of Drake*. London, UK: Adam & Charles Black, 1938.**

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