

**VASCO NUÑEZ DE
BALBOA. HEROES OF
AMERICAN HISTORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649728527

Vasco Nuñez de Balboa. Heroes of American History by Frederick A. Ober

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FREDERICK A. OBER

**VASCO NUÑEZ DE
BALBOA. HEROES OF
AMERICAN HISTORY**



VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA

VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA

BY
FREDERICK A. OBER

HEROES OF AMERICAN HISTORY

ILLUSTRATED



HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK AND LONDON

1906

Copyright, 1906, by HARPER & BROTHERS.

All rights reserved.

Published October, 1906.

E125
B202

CONTENTS

| CHAP. | | PAGE |
|--------|--|------|
| I. | THE MAN-OF-THE-BARREL | 1 |
| II. | LEADER OF A FORLORN HOPE | 19 |
| III. | BALBOA ASSERTS HIS SUPREMACY | 33 |
| IV. | BALBOA CAPTURES A PRINCESS | 47 |
| V. | THE CACIQUES OF DARIEN | 64 |
| VI. | FIRST TIDINGS OF THE PACIFIC | 81 |
| VII. | A SEARCH FOR THE GOLDEN TEMPLE | 95 |
| VIII. | CONSPIRACY OF THE CACIQUES | 106 |
| IX. | HOW THE CONSPIRACY WAS DEFEATED | 120 |
| X. | DISSENSIONS IN THE COLONY | 134 |
| XI. | BALBOA STRENGTHENS HIS ARM | 148 |
| XII. | THE QUEST FOR THE AUSTRAL OCEAN | 162 |
| XIII. | ON THE SHORES OF THE PACIFIC | 175 |
| XIV. | A RIVAL IN THE FIELD | 193 |
| XV. | PEDRARIAS, THE SCOURGE OF DARIEN | 206 |
| XVI. | IN THE DOMAIN OF THE DRAGONS | 220 |
| XVII. | A COMPACT WITH THE ENEMY | 234 |
| XVIII. | BUILDING THE BRIGANTINES | 245 |
| XIX. | IMPRISONED AND IN CHAINS | 258 |
| XX. | THE END OF VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA | 269 |

M599451

ILLUSTRATIONS

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----|
| VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA | <i>Fransispue</i> | |
| PANAMA, DARIEN, AND THE SOUTH SEA . | <i>Facing p.</i> | 1 |
| BALBOA CARRIED ON SHIPBOARD | " | 16 |
| VILLAGE ON RIVER OF DARIEN | " | 52 |
| BALBOA AND THE INDIAN PRINCESS | " | 68 |
| QUARREL FOR THE GOLD | " | 84 |
| DISCOVERY OF THE PACIFIC | " | 170 |
| EXECUTION OF BALBOA | " | 274 |

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

While Vasco Nuñez de Balboa may be reckoned among the greatest of the minor explorers, yet less has been written of him, perhaps, than of any other in his class except Juan Ponce de Leon. Both names are familiar to every student of history, both are well known even to the casual reader; but both have been strangely neglected by the biographer.

The only complete biography of Balboa (it was declared by an authority several years ago), is that of Don Manuel José de Quintana, who, between the years 1807 and 1834, published his "Spanish Plutarch," or *Vidas de Españoles Célebres*. This work is considered a classic, and its author (who was born in Madrid, 1772, and died in 1857) lived to see it receive high praise, and some of its subjects honored by translation into other languages than his own vernacular. An English edition, of *Balboa and Pizarro*, from Quintana's *Celebrated Spaniards*, was published in London, 1832, as translated by Mrs. Margaret Hodson, and dedicated to Robert Southey, then England's poet-laureate.

But there is much material elsewhere to be found pertaining to Balboa, as well as to Pizarro, and no lack of original documents, such as letters that passed between Vasco Nuñez and the Spanish crown, in the years 1513, 1514 and 1515. Mention is made of Balboa by all the early Spanish writers, of course, such as Martyr, Herrera, and Oviedo, the last named having been personally acquainted with him, as well as with Pedrarias, Pizarro, and all those who were concerned in the exploration and settlement of Darien, Panama, and Peru. Though Oviedo's great work, the *Historia Natural y General de las Indias*, remained in manuscript during three centuries, Quintana had free access to it and extracted much that was interesting and valuable.