

# ROBERT F. MARX

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**FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION** - Underwater Archaeology & Maritime History. During the past six decades I have worked in more than 65 countries.

**EDUCATION** - Los Angeles City College (1951-1953) & University of Maryland (1953-1956 - extension courses during military service) - 90 credit hours in Archaeology & History.

**MILITARY SERVICE** - US Marine Corps 1953-1956 - Diving Specialist - USMC Reserves 1956-1962.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AND RECOVERIES

**Years 1950 - 1959** -My first important exploration was the discovery in 1950 of the Manila Galleon *SAN AGUSTIN* lost in Drake's Bay, California, in 1595. This was followed by work off the coast of North Carolina on a number of Civil War Period wrecks. During a six month Mediterranean cruise with the US Navy's Sixth Fleet in 1954 I explored more than two dozen wrecks in the Azores, Spain, Portugal, France, Libya, Greece and Egypt. While running a diving school for the USMC in Puerto Rico in 1955/56 I also worked on many Colonial Period wrecks in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. In 1957-59 I worked with The Mexican Dept. of Anthropology & History and Tulane University in a number of cenotes (sinkholes) and recovered a large number of Mayan artifacts. During this same period I discovered and excavated a number of Spanish shipwrecks along the coast of Yucatan; the most being the *NUESTRA SENORA DE MILAGROS* lost in 1741.

**Years 1960 - 1969** -During 1960 to 1962 I conducted surveys of submerged Roman and Phoenician cities off the coast of southern Spain and located over 100 shipwrecks off Cadiz, Sanlucar de Barrameda and Tarifa, Spain. In 1963 I worked on a number of Spanish shipwrecks in Bermuda which were sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. Also in 1963 and 1964 I worked on numerous old shipwrecks around Isla Providencia and Serrana and Serranilla Banks in the western Caribbean. In 1965 I began my three year project of excavating the sunken city of *Port Royal*, Jamaica - one of the most important archaeological sites in the Western Hemisphere. Working under the auspices of the Institute of Jamaica and the Jamaican National Trust Commission we recovered over two million artifacts and I wrote forty archaeological reports on this work. After finishing the *Port Royal Project* in 1968 I discovered two of Christopher Columbus' shipwrecks in St. Anne's Bay, Jamaica. In 1969 I became the Director of Research and Salvage for the Real Eight Co. of Melbourne, Florida and worked on the wrecks of the 1715 fleet and other Spanish Colonial Period shipwrecks for this firm until 1971.

**Years 1970 -1979** - I conducted a survey of Lake Toluca, recovering a large number of Aztec artifacts under the auspices of CEDAM of Mexico in 1971. In 1972 I conducted searches for deep water shipwrecks off the

east coast of Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico using the *ALCOA SEAPROBE* research vessel, finding several of the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1972 I also discovered and began excavation on the Spanish Galleon *Nuestra Senora de la Maravilla*, lost in 1656 on the Little Bahama Bank. During 1973 and 1974 I worked under the auspices of UNESCO in the ports of Byblos, Tyre and Sidon in Lebanon and located numerous Phoenician, Greek and Roman shipwrecks and recovered a substantial number of artifacts for the National Museum of Lebanon. In 1975 and 1976 I participated in various surveys and excavations in Israel under the direction of Dr. Elisha Linder of the University of Haifa. In 1977 I worked under the auspices of the OAS in Panamanian waters and made a number of important discoveries and also partially excavated several shipwrecks off Porto Bello and Nombre de Dios. Also in 1977 I worked on four 17th and 18th Dutch shipwrecks off the west coast of Australia under the auspices of the Western Australia Museum. In 1979 I located and excavated a number of Colonial Period shipwrecks around Mauritius Island in the Indian Ocean under the auspices of UNESCO. In 1979 I also discovered the flagship, , of the Dutch admiral Piet Heyn in Salvador (Bahia), Brazil

**Years 1980 - 1989** - I continued my work in Brazil and worked there until 1983 on many shipwrecks of Salvador, Recife and Rio de Janeiro. Amongst my most notable discovery was that of a 2nd century BC Roman shipwreck in the Bay of Guanabara, near Rio de Janeiro. In 1980 I located and excavated a number of 17th and 18th century shipwrecks off Cape Breton Island, Canada. In 1981 I found numerous old shipwrecks off the Cape Verde Islands. In 1982 I conducted surveys and excavations off the coast of Brittany, France under the auspices of the Musee de Marine (Paris). In 1984 I began a four year project of searching for Manila Galleons in both the Philippines and Guam. In the Philippines I found six Manila Galleons of the 16th and 17th centuries and over 50 Asiatic trading vessels dating from the 10th to 16th century. Off Guam I discovered two Manila Galleons of the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1989 I began a six year project of locating and salvaging shipwrecks off Malaysia, the oldest discovered was from the 2nd century BC.

**Year 1990 - 1999** - In 1990 and 1991 I surveyed and excavated a Spanish galleon (1715) in 1,000 feet of water off St. Augustine, Florida using the *JOHNSON SEA-LINK* submersible. During these same two years I discovered and partially excavated the famous Portuguese carrack *FLOR DO MAR*, lost in 1511 off Sumatra, Indonesia. This ship is considered the richest ever lost in the world. Most of 1993 to 1996 was devoted to working on shipwrecks in the Maldives, Singapore, Indonesia and around Malaysia. During the period 1997 and 1998 most of my time was spent working on shipwrecks off the Bahamas, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Florida, Sicily (Italy) and Mallorca (Spain). In 1999 my most important discovery was the *TRINIDAD*, one of Magellan's ships lost on the north coast of Borneo.

**Year 2000 - 2009** - I conducted a visual search for early 19th century wrecks in the Falkland Islands, and also discovered a late 17th century Spanish merchant ship lost near Puerto Madryn, Argentina. In 2003 I did a survey of an 8th century BC Phoenician shipwreck near Rhodes Island, Greece. In 2004 I performed a survey of several 17th and 18th century Spanish shipwrecks off the coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico. From 2001 through present I have served as an archaeological and historical consultant to three different salvage firms working on Spanish shipwrecks dating between 1541 and 1800 along the coast of Ecuador. From 2004 through present, I have served as an archaeological and historical consultant to a Japanese company engaged in shipwreck exploration in Japan; the Azores; Bahamas; Cape Canaveral, Florida; and Ecuador. I also consult on the production of documentary films and various products relating to underwater work, such as dive watches. From June 2008 I have served as an archaeological and historical consultant to Seven Seas Search and Salvage, LLC, a Florida corporation engaged in shipwreck exploration in the Caribbean and

Florida.

**HISTORICAL RESEARCH** - The focus of my research has mainly been on the Spanish treasure fleets, shipwrecks, naval warfare, ship construction, pre-Colombian voyages to the New World and the history of diving and salvage. Starting in 1960 I have worked in archives and libraries in more than 40 countries. In the Archivo de las Indias in Seville, Spain I have spent over two years working as this is the main depository for researching Spanish maritime shipping and trade.

**HISTORICAL VOYAGE DUPLICATION** - In 1962 I was the co-organizer and navigator on the authentic voyage of the *Niña II*, a replica of one of Columbus' caravels, sailing between Palos, Spain and San Salvador in the Bahamas. As a result of this voyage I was made a Knight Commander in the Order of Isabel the Catholic by the Spanish Government. In 1964 and again in 1964 I was the organizer and captain of two voyages in authentic 10th century Viking ships: the first sailing between Yugoslavia and Tunisia (where we were shipwrecked) and the second between Ireland and Gibraltar.

**OTHER EMPLOYMENT** - Almost all of my life has been devoted to the field of underwater archaeology. I have also worked as editor of the Saturday Evening Post, Argosy and Dive Magazines. I have lectured in more than 50 countries and since 1996 have been lecturing on ships of the Princess Cruise lines all over the world.

**ORGANIZATIONS** - Among the most important, I was one of the founding members of the Los Angeles Diving Club in 1951 (the oldest diving club in the US), founding member of FOMAR (Fundación Iberoamericana para el Fomento de la Cultura y Ciencias del Mar), founding members of the Council of Underwater Archaeology in 1963 and on the Board of Advisors until 1995, and a Fellow of the Explorer's Club since 1959.

**BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS** - I have written over 900 popular articles and archaeological reports which have been published in more than 50 countries. Among the 62 books I have written and had published the most notable are: *The World's Richest Wrecks*, *The Voyage of the Niña II*, *The Battles of the Spanish Armada*, *The battle of Lepanto*, *Treasure Fleets of the Spanish Main*, *Shipwrecks of the Western Hemisphere*, *Port Royal Rediscovered*, *Capture of the Spanish Plate Fleet*, *Always Another Adventure*, *Buried Treasures of the United States*, *The Underwater Dig*, *In Quest of the Great White Gods*, and *Treasures Lost at Sea*.

**TELEVISION DOCUMENTARIES** - I have produced 55 documentary films for television and have worked or been in over 100 more in numerous countries.