

PIRATES



Pirates were considered the robbers with no honour or respect in the eyes of their contemporaries. However, they all respected their own strict rules which every pirate swore on the Bible or an axe. They also dealt with the way of splitting the loot among the pirates. An agreement which was made in 1721 between a pirate captain Bartholomew Roberts (in the picture) and his crew included these two articles:

Article 1. Nobody will suggest to finish the expedition before the value of one share reaches 1,000 pounds. Each man who will become disabled or will lose his limb in service gets 800 pesos from the whole loot.

Article 2. The captain and the first officer each will get two shares from the loot, the main cannoneer and a boatswaine will get one and a half share of the loot, other officers will get one and a quarter share and simple soldiers (the gentlemen of fortune) will get one share each.

Excercise 1: What would the value of one share be if a boatswaine, who survived the whole expedition with no injury, got 5,250 pesos?

Calculation:

Answer: The value of one share would be

Excercise 2: If the loot was split according to the above mentioned rules the boat carpenter Jack (being rewarded as an officer) got 7,100 pesos altogether. How much did a simple soldier Edward get? (Be careful, this task has more solutions).

Answer:

.....

.....

Excercise 3: According to the rules the loot of 5,000 Spanish pesos should be divided among the members of the crew which consists of the captain, the first officer, the main cannoneer, a boatswain, a boat carpenter (he is rewarded as an officer), four other officers and 223 pirates. 15 sailors lost an arm, two others a leg. What will the value of one share be? Write down your calculation.

Calculation:

Answer: The value of one share will be



Excercise 4: What would the value of one share be for a simple soldier to get a bigger part of the loot than one of the officers ? Write down your calculation.

Calculation:

Answer: It could happen if the value of one share was

The most frequent item of the loot were Spanish coins: *silver reals* and *golden escudos*. Their exchange rate was well-known to all pirates.

1 golden escudo = 16 silver reals.

A golden 8-escudo coin was called *a dublon*, a silver coin worth 8 reals was equal to a *peso* which we have mentioned previously. The exchange rate between dublons and English pounds was

1 dublon = 4 £.

Some of the authors estimate that one English pound in that time was worth 550 £ nowadays. At the beginning of 2008 the exchange rate was approximately

1 £ = 1.3 euro.



Excercise 5: The carpenter Jack found out that 1 share reached the value of 3,500 pesos. Does this value give the pirates right to ask to stop the expedition (according to the article 9 in the agreement with the captain)? Circle the right answer and give your reasons.

Answer: give the right does not give the right.

Reasons:

Excercise 6: Estimate the today's value of one share worth 3,800 pesos in euros (round off to ten thousand).

Calculation:

Answer: The sum of 1 share would have the value approximately of.....euros.