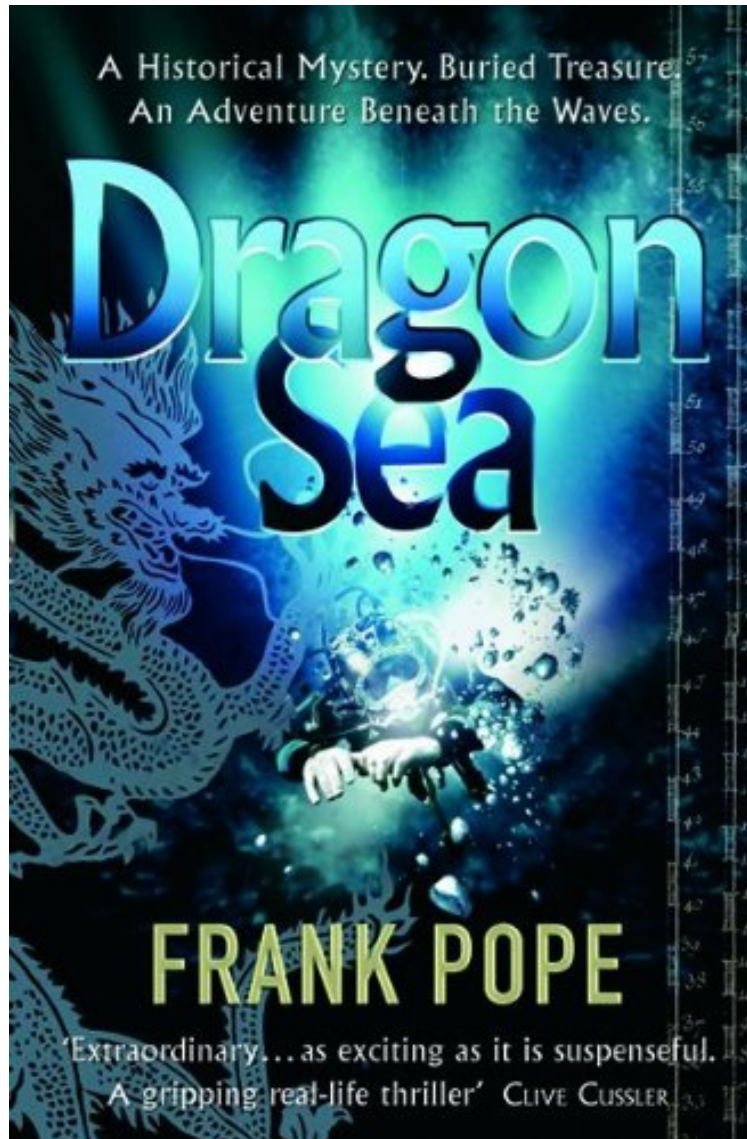


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Dragon Sea: A True Tale of Treasure, Archeology, and Greed off the Coast of Vietnam

Frank Pope

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Frank Pope : Dragon Sea: A True Tale of Treasure, Archeology, and Greed off the Coast of Vietnam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dragon Sea: A True Tale of Treasure, Archeology, and Greed off the Coast of Vietnam:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Wreck Adventure since Shadow DiversBy James CThere are

already plenty of great reviews on this book so I won't repeat what has already been said. Basically, this is the best wreck/ true adventure book I've discovered since *Shadow Divers*. Pope does a very good job of weaving a readable narrative that brings the players to life without a major bias towards one or another of them. Particularly interesting are some of the side stories that he weaves into the narrative, discussing little-known aspects of the maritime archaeology trade and professional diving. Great travel read!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Readable history
By B. Turrell
Will be going to Vietnam this year and found this to be very interesting. A different take on what is usually given on the history of Vietnam. I was fascinated by the way China was so deeply involved in Vietnam. The author presented his characters as interesting people, gave very detailed technical facts about the dives that were mostly understandable and wrote with a wonderful enthusiasm about his story.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful
By Han Bui
I brought it as a gift for my friend who love Vietnam. and He said, "very good book."
So there!

When Oxford archeologist Mensun Bound dubbed the *Indiana Jones of the Deep* by the Discovery Channel teamed up with a financier to salvage a sunken trove of fifteenth-century porcelain, it seemed a dream enterprise. The stakes were high: The Hoi An wreck lay hundreds of feet down in a typhoon-prone stretch of water off the coast of Vietnam known as the Dragon Sea. Raising its contents required saturation diving, a crew of 160, and a fleet of boats. The costs were unprecedented. But the potential rewards were equally high: Bound would revolutionize thinking about Vietnamese ceramics, and his partner would make a fortune auctioning off the pieces. Hired as the projects manager, Frank Pope watched the tumultuous drama of the Hoi An unfold. In *Dragon Sea* he delivers an engrossing tale of danger, adventure, and ambition a fascinating object lesson in what happens when scholarship and money join forces to recover lost treasure.

From *Publishers Weekly*
This intense look at the fierce competition in what first-time author Pope slyly calls "the extraordinary underworld of shipwrecks" focuses on the effort in the late 1990s to recover a hoard of precious 15th-century porcelain from the sunken Hoi An ship in the Dragon Sea, a stretch of "typhoon-torn" water off the coast of Vietnam. Pope is equally adept at illuminating "the peculiarly powerful allure of shipwrecks" that drives the Hoi An team as he is in explaining the larger and more difficult context of modern excavation efforts, where "maritime archeologists who were regularly leading excavations around the world could be counted on the fingers of one hand, but the number of looters, souvenir-seekers, and well-equipped treasure-hunters was in the high hundreds." But Pope's strength in detailing the Hoi An story comes from his fascinating in-depth portraits of the main players in what became an unprecedented and expensive recovery effort: Ong Soo Hin, a Malaysian businessman who helped launch the project; Mensun Bound, the director of Oxford's Maritime Archaeological unit; and Dilip Tan, the operations manager under "nightmarish pressure" to finish the project. Pope expertly shows how the same ocean that can terrify and enrich can also "lay bare the very nature of man." (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "... an engaging account that delves into the ethical conundrums of marine salvage, the deadly physics of the deep ocean and the roiling waters of professional subterfuge ... Pope's impassioned, detailed reporting draws us into the story of ceramics and Vietnam ..."