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John Paul Jones: Commemoration at Annapolis

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This volume recounts the search for the body of John Paul Jones in the abandoned St. Louis Cemetery of Paris (Jones was buried on July 20, 1792 in Paris). There is a wealth of documentary and historical material relating to Jones' career, but surely the most fascinating part of this book has to do with the rediscovery, examination and removal of Jones' long-dead body in 1905. The remains were indeed well-preserved after 113 years and were subject to the indignity of examination, autopsy and publication. This book includes a full-page bust view of the well-preserved Jones. The entire affair reads like a mystery, and we are treated to some creepy photos as well.

The book opens with an address by President Theodore Roosevelt, and contains addresses delivered at the U. S. Naval Academy, April 24, 1906. "The 24th of April, 1906, was chosen for the commemorative exercises in honor John Paul Jones because it was the anniversary of Jones's famous capture of the British ship of war Drake, off Carrickfergus in 1778. Jones carried the war to the shores of Britain, actually landing in Scotland in an attempt to capture the Earl of Selkirk; this episode resulted in his reputation as a pirate in Britain.

Important material first published here on John Paul Jones including letters and illustrations showing the character and personal appearance of Jones.

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