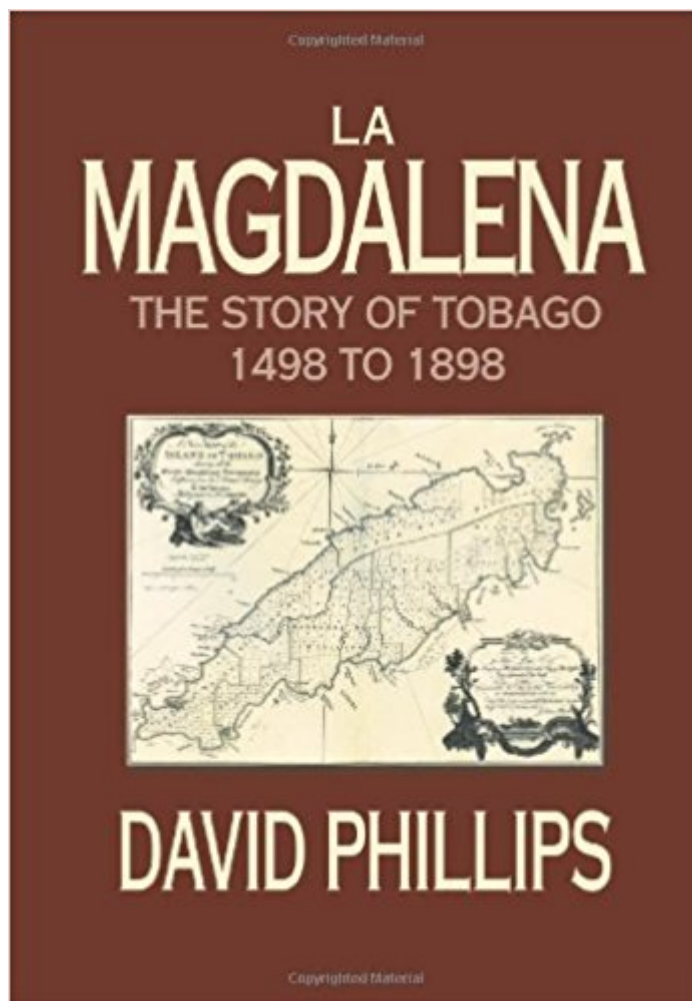


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La Magdalena: The Story Of Tobago 1498 To 1898



Synopsis

This is a history of the author's home, Tobago, one of the Windward Islands and now part of the nation of Trinidad and Tobago. In the era of tobacco, indigo and sugar, its fertility was sought after by Courlanders (Latvians), the Dutch, the French and English. The cultivation of sugar became supreme and with it the necessity for slave labour to work the plantations. Beyond their own requirements there was a demand for slaves by the Spanish settlements and this the Courlanders and the Dutch were tempted to satisfy. But wars in Europe had the habit of over-spilling into the Caribbean and Tobago was not ignored. It constantly changed hands in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries and its fortunes in the times of peace fluctuated in tune with the price of sugar. This was an unequal task and Tobago's economy by the mid 1800's had collapsed. A union with Trinidad was the only salvation and this came about in 1899. This is a simple story to remind the reader of the rise and fall of an island of which they may never have heard.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author, David Phillips, was born on the 15th August, 1927, in Portsmouth, England, where he was educated. Soon after leaving school he served for two years in the Royal Air Force as a National Service conscript. Sixteen years of Colonial banking followed, primarily in the Caribbean, and Tobago in particular. Private business beckoned and a yearning to return to Tobago was fulfilled in 1962. Research into the island's history began about 1975, with this book starting to take shape soon afterwards. The author is a collector of antique charts of the island and books related to

the history of the Caribbean. From 1992 to 1995 he was Chairman of the Tobago Trust, and the newly established Museum. He is married to a former Pamela Weeks, and has a son and two daughters. He lives in retirement in Tobago.

If you want a detailed history of the island of Tobago from 1498 to 1898, this is an excellent book to read.

David Phillips has pushed all other histories of Tobago into second place. Nobody is more concerned about getting the facts correct. This is a book to enjoy and keep; and an ideal Christmas present for anybody connected to or interested in the Caribbean. Robert Massey

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