

IT SEEMS to have become a family tradition for the Dukes of Argyll to attempt to find the ship from the Spanish Armada said to have sunk in Tobermory Bay.

The present Duke will carry out his search of the seabed this year but the history books have already been searched by two Mull authors and they've struck gold with their own gem of a book.

*A Treasure Lost, The Spanish wreck in Tobermory Bay* is by Olive Brown and Jean Whittaker and been selling well ever since it was published by their own imprint, Brown and Whittaker Publishing, Tobermory in 2000.

They specialise in books about walking, history, wildlife folklore and genealogy on the island.

Meticulously researched and generously illustrated *A Treasure Lost* is a good read which goes from the preparations for the Armada right up to the last major exploration to find her in 1982.

As well as informing, the book also debunks a few myths along the way.

To quote the opening page: 'She wasn't a

galleon, wasn't called the *Florencia* and wasn't even Spanish.'

Olive said: 'This is the only book in print that tells the full story and includes all the latest research.'

'The only thing we hope that people will get right the name of the ship, which was the San Juan Bautista de Sicilia, she was never, ever called the *Florencia* or the Florida,' said Olive.

The present Duke's search will involve a non-invasive survey carried out from the surface.

His grace told *The Oban Times* in November: 'Generations of my

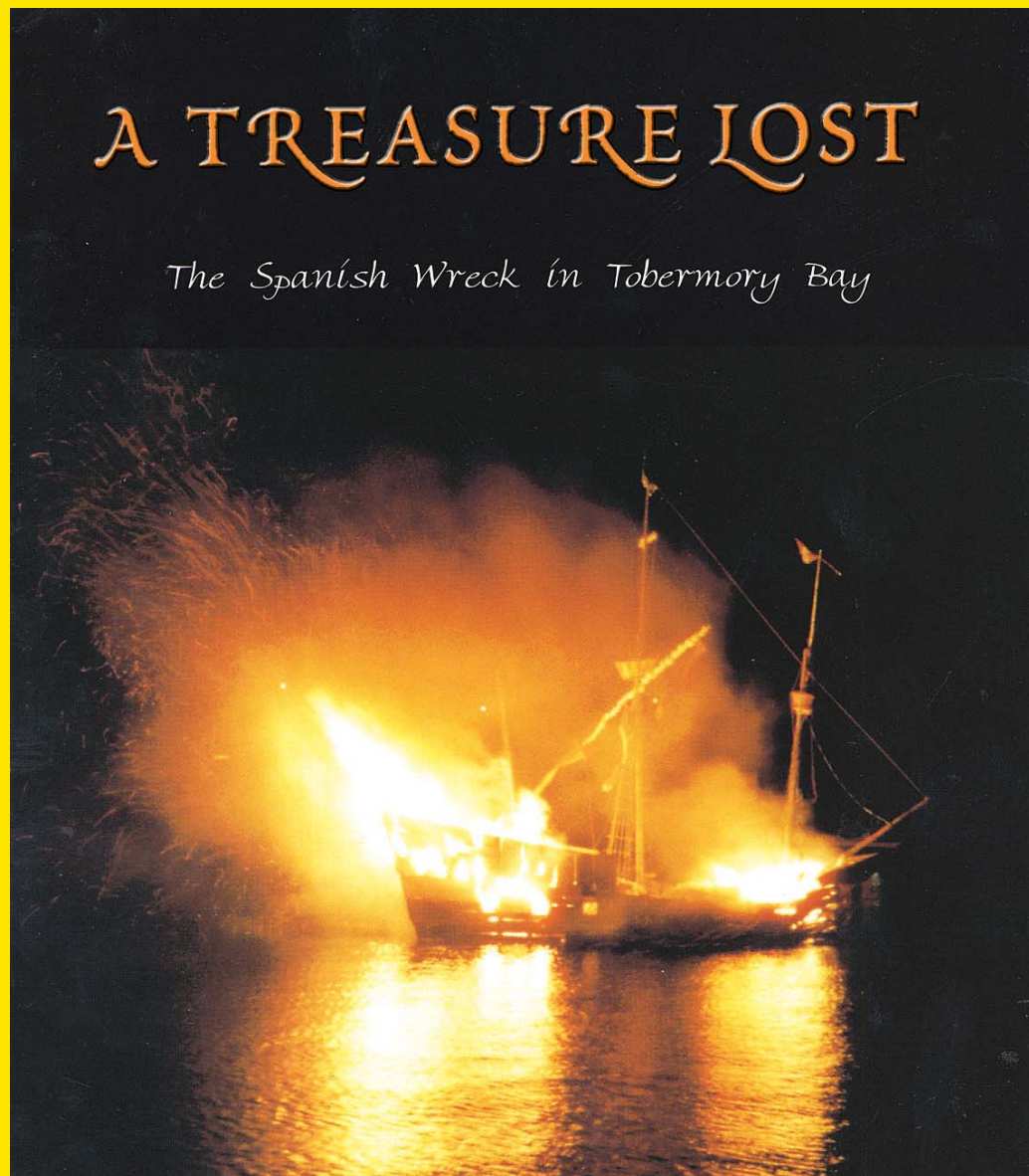
family have been trying to find the wreck for hundreds of years and with advances in underwater exploration we may be able to find some answers.'

His grandfather mounted an exploration in 1954 and his father, the 12th Duke who a keen diver, dived the site in 1975.

The site at which the ship is rumoured to lie was granted to the Campbells of Argyll by Royal charter in 1694.

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Olive Brown & Jean Whittaker