



# Smuggling in Cornwall: An Illustrated History

*Jeremy Johns*

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## **Smuggling in Cornwall: An Illustrated History** Jeremy Johns

Smuggling In Cornwall: An Illustrated History tells the story of the smuggling trade that flourished in Cornwall during the 18th and 19th centuries. Drawing on extant source material, it examines how the trade was organized and financed with particular reference to the fishing village of Polperro on the south coast of Cornwall, where it was masterminded by Zephaniah Job, known as the 'Smugglers' Banker'. Cornwall's extensive coastline and isolated location made it possible for large quantities of rum, brandy, gin, tea and tobacco to be shipped across from Guernsey and brought ashore in secluded coves. Repeated attempts by Revenue Officers to seize contraband goods were invariably thwarted; even when a smuggler was caught red-handed, it was rare for a Cornish jury to convict him. But 1798, the murder of a Customs Officer by one of the crew of a smuggling vessel named the *Lottery* led to the establishment of the Coastguard service and the eventual decline of the smuggling trade.

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