

Cartographer: Montalboddo Fracan [Fracanzano]

Date: 1508-12

Size: 26.17 x 18.4 cm

DESCRIPTION: This is the earliest known separate map of Africa, although the whole continent was correctly shown, surrounded by water, on other early maps such as Fra de Virga (#240), Mauro (#249) Contarini (#311), Waldseemüller (#310) and Ruysch (#313). It is a good delineation of the continent, however, it does incorrectly label the Red Sea, or Arabian Gulf, as *Sinus Perisicus* (this was corrected in later editions to *Sinus Arabicus*, see below).

The text is a Latin translation of *Paesi Nouamente retrouati*, Venice 1507, the first printed collection of voyages. It contains accounts of journeys to Ethiopia and other parts of Africa, and also of eastward voyages around Cape Horn to India, as well as those of Columbus, Vespucci and others to the west.

Fracanzano da Montalboddo's famous compilation, and the first printed collection of voyages, is one of the most important collections of voyages ever printed. First printed in Italian in Vicenza in 1507 as *Paesi novamente ritrovati*, the work was translated into Latin by the Milanese monk, Archangelo Madrignano, and printed the following year. In addition to the accounts of the exploration in the Americas, it contains important accounts of voyages in the Eastern Hemisphere. The book was published in the 16th century in several editions, and was "the most important vehicle for the dissemination throughout Renaissance Europe of the news of the great discoveries both in the east and the west". The most important voyages are: The first three voyages of Columbus, 1492-1500, the third voyage of Vespucci, 1501-1502 (to Brasil), Pedro Alvares Cabral's discovery of the Brazilian, Guianaian and Venezuelan coasts in 1500-1501, Alvise da Cadamosto's explorations along the West African coast in 1456, which appears here for the first time, Vasco da Gama's explorations of Africa and India in 1497-99 which "opened the way for the maritime invasion of the east by Europe", and many others.

REFERENCES:

*Brown, L.A., *The World Encompassed*, #69, Plate XXIV.

Itinerariū Portugallēsiū e Lusitania in Indiā ⁊ in
de in occidentem ⁊ demum ad aquilonem.

