

FRANCESCO GHISOLFI (?), PORTOLAN ATLAS

This is a world atlas containing 11 nautical charts, table of declinations, etc.:

1. Blank except for decorated border and "Phillipps MS 22796" inscribed in center
2. Western Mediterranean
3. Table of declinations and armillary sphere
4. The two hemispheres (showing western America linked to Asia)
5. Oval map of the world
6. Planisphere with signs of zodiac and figures representing seasons
7. Indian Ocean, Africa, Arabia, India, and part of Asia
8. Central Mediterranean and Italy
9. Pacific Ocean with portions of North and South America, East Indies, part of China
10. Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean Sea
11. Western Mediterranean, Iberian peninsula, Northwest Africa
12. Eastern coast of North America, South America, Atlantic Ocean, Europe (including Scandinavia), Africa, Near East
13. World in five gores (decorated at top and bottom with signs of the zodiac and other figures)
14. Black SeaParchment.

Black and red ink for nomenclature in a minuscule script with square capitals for display script; land masses outlined in azure and gold; charts with one compass rose each (except number 8, where it is omitted); usual 32 rhumb line network in black, red and green ink for the principal directions; no latitude or longitude; distance indicated on each chart by series of small circles; highly decorated with vignettes of cities, many wind-heads and elaborate figures.

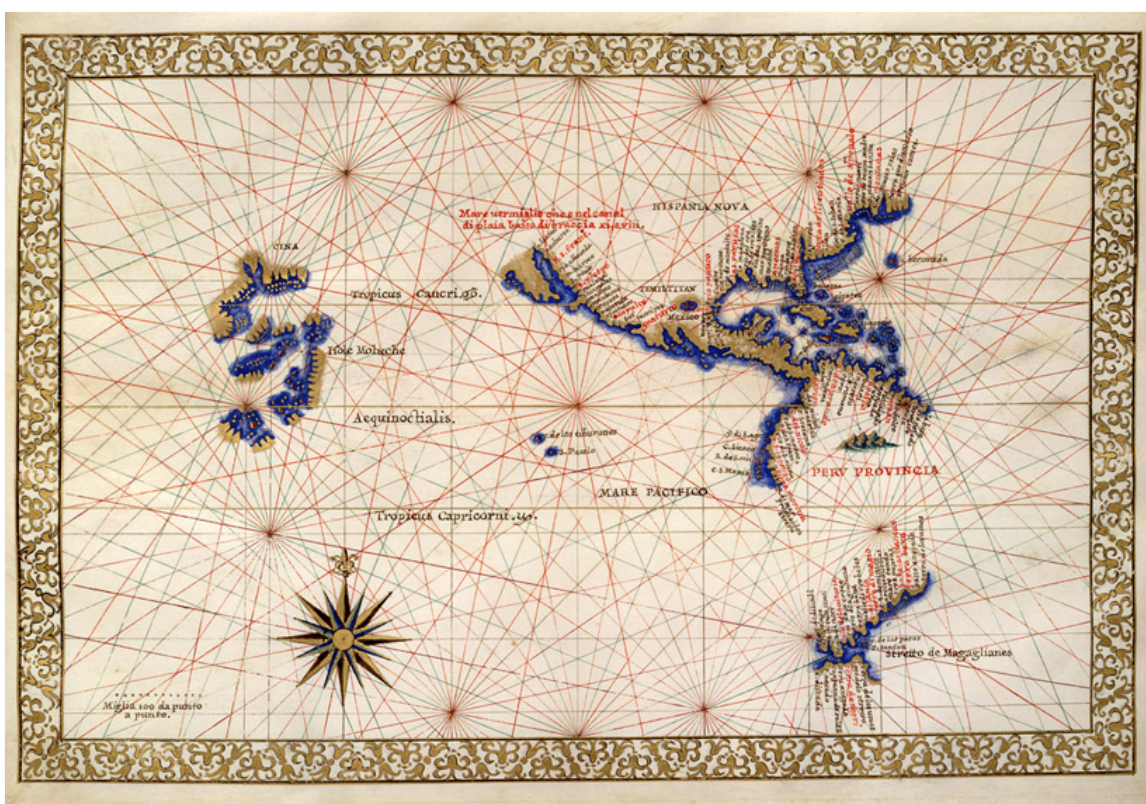
Title on spine *Cartes Hydrographiques M.S.* Attributed to Francesco Ghisolfi both because of the artistic construction (striking azure and gold map outlines, intricately drawn gold border pattern, and the colorful, finely drawn figures characteristic of his work) and the cartography (closely patterned on the charts of Battista Agnese (#384.2), his teacher); probably made in Genoa, his home, during the latter half of the 16th century. Sir Thomas Phillipps' notes "Phillipps MS 22796"; an unsigned, undated note in a British hand on end flyleaf states "This atlas is by the same hand as the one in *Riccardiana Florence No 3140* which has verses at the end dedicated to Francesco Gisolfo the author of the work, circa 1553." Obtained privately by A. S. W. Rosenbach for Henry E. Huntington in 1924.

References:

- S. De Ricci, with the assistance of W. H. Wilson, *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada* (New York 1935-37; index 1940).
- H. R. Wagner, "The Manuscript Atlases of Battista Agnese," *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* 25 (1931) 1-110 and plates.
- H. R. Wagner, *The Cartography of the Northwest Coast of America to the Year 1800* (1937).



Francesco Ghisolfi Portolan Atlas: Eastern Hemisphere



Francesco Ghisolfi Portolan Atlas: Western Hemisphere



Francesco Ghisolfi Portolan Atlas: World



Francesco Ghisolfi Portolan Atlas: World



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