



JOAN MARTINES, PORTOLAN ATLAS, 1587

Description: This manuscript atlas by Joan Martines, cosmographer to King Philip II of Spain, dated 1587, represents the combination of two cartographic schools that existed at the time of its creation. The older one was the traditional school of Majorca, which specialized in decorative *portolan* maps that by this time were obsolete with regard to the geographic information they conveyed. The newer one was the cartographic school of the Low Countries, which applied Renaissance principles and used different forms of cartographic representation based on new concepts in astronomy, mathematics, and geography to produce maps containing more information than the traditional *portolans*. The atlas consists of 19 maps, each on two pages, with the drawings occupying nearly the length of the pages and framed by edgings of different colors. Place-names are given in Gothic letters, in red and black ink, and in Roman small capitals. There are six nautical charts, 11 regional maps, and two maps of the world, all luxuriously illuminated in colored-wash drawing, with panes of gold and silver. Most of the maps have a large compass rose showing 16 or 32 directions, and some of the maps depict ships sailing the seas. The world atlas contains 14 nautical charts:

1. Russia and Near East
2. Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean
3. Aegean Sea and eastern Mediterranean
4. Western Mediterranean
5. Northeastern Atlantic Ocean, including western Europe and northwestern Africa
6. Northwestern Atlantic Ocean, including Newfoundland and portion of east

coast of America

7. West Indies, east coast of North America and north coast of South America, Central America, Mexico

8. Northeastern South America

9. Southern South America, including Straits of Magellan with Tierra del Fuego as an Antarctic continent

10. Northwestern coast of South America and Central America

11. North Pacific Ocean, including coasts of Mexico, California, Asia, and Japan

12. West central coast of Africa

13. Southern Africa and Madagascar

14. Northwestern Indian Ocean, including Red Sea and Persian Gulf, parts of Africa and Arabia

Size: 24 x 35 cm. on double page opening

Narrow red band for border, generally cropped at bottom edge. Modern penciled foliation. Black and red ink for nomenclature in a minuscule script with area names in a display script; land masses outlined in color, with islands painted blue, red, green or gold; either two or three elaborate compass roses on each chart with usual 32 rhumb line network in black, red and green ink for principal directions; latitude scales on all charts except #2, #3, and #4, no longitude; unnumbered scales of distance on charts #2, #3, #4, and #5; highly decorated with vignettes of cities, ships, mountains and rivers.

References: Cortesão, *Cartografia*, 2:226; De Ricci, 42; Wagner, *Portolan Atlases*, 9; Wagner, *Cartography*, 2:286, n. 117.



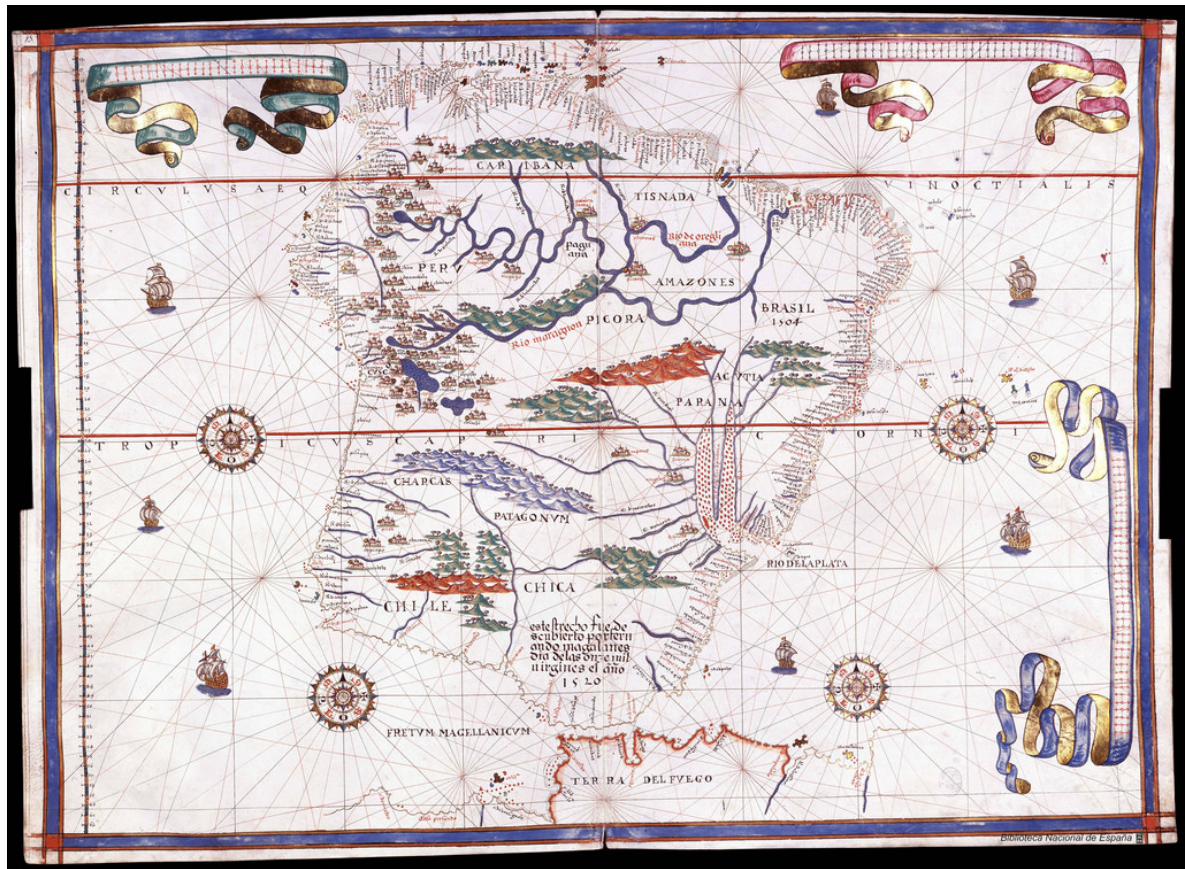
#7. West Indies, east coast of North America and north coast of South America, Central

America, Mexico



#8. Northeastern South America





South America



#9. Southern South America, including Straits of Magellan with Tierra del Fuego as an Antarctic continent



#11. North Pacific Ocean, including coasts of Mexico, California, Cibola, Asia, and Japan



#5. Northeastern Atlantic Ocean, including western Europe, northwestern Africa, Friesland, Satanazes/Antillia island group and Hy-Brazil west of Ireland, re-oriented with North at the top



12. West central coast of Africa



13. Southern Africa and Madagascar



14. Northwestern Indian Ocean, including Red Sea and Persian Gulf, parts of Africa and Arabia







Asia



Scotland, oriented with West at the top



North Atlantic

