



This chart, commonly known as *Kunstmann V*, depicts the mid-Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea, northern South America, and West Africa. It appears on two pages of an atlas of seven charts by Vesconte Maggiolo (c. 1475-c. 1550). It is on the third chart of the atlas that one can read the signature and date: “*Vesconte de maillo civis janua composuy hanc cartan in janua de anno dny 1519*” (Vesconte Maggiolo, citizen of Genoa, composed this chart in Genoa in the year of our Lord 1519). This atlas is sometimes mistakenly dated to the month of January based upon the spelling of “*janua*” for Genoa. The other six charts of the atlas depict regions in the Old World: Africa, the Atlantic coast of Europe, the western and central Mediterranean Sea, the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea, India and Southeast Asia, and the Caspian Sea. Thus, in just seven charts, the atlas covers the entire maritime world then known to Europeans, with the exception of Florida and Newfoundland.

Few extant charts made prior to the *Kunstmann V* are as rich in South American coastal place-names, and we may confidently state this chart represented a leap forward in this regard. Place-names are packed along the entire coast, from the Gulf of Uraba to the entrance to the Rio de la Plata. The sources were undoubtedly now-lost Spanish and Portuguese charts. It is notable that three of the earliest names for *Hispaniola* (present day San Domingo) are inscribed upon the island by Maggiolo: *Spagnola*, the original name bestowed by Christopher Columbus; *Isabella*, the name of the second Spanish settlement, later extended to encompass the whole island; and *Antylia Ysola*, the medieval legendary island name transferred by the Portuguese to the Caribbean islands.

There are two inscriptions in red ink in South America. One reads "*Tota tera vocate sante crusis de Re de portogale*" [All the land, named "*Santa Cruz*," [is] of the King of Portugal]; and the other reads "*Tota terra jnuenta per cristfa colonbo januensis de Re de spania*" [All the land, discovered by the Genoese Christopher Columbus, [is] of the King of Spain]. These two captions, which are variations of labels typically seen on charts and maps of the early 1500s, ultimately derive from the Portuguese *padrão real* [royal pattern chart] of the beginning of the century.

The Benedictine monastery in Metten, Bavaria, preserved the atlas until about 1840, whereupon it was acquired by the King's Library in Munich (present day Bavarian State Library). In 1859 the chart was included in the celebrated *Kunstmann* atlas of facsimiles of old charts kept in Munich. Being made known during a time when few manuscript charts were reproduced assured the long-lasting fame of the *Kunstmann V* chart.

**Reference:**

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<https://www.medeia-chart.org/single-post/chart-of-the-week-kunstmann-v-chart-vesconte-maggiolo-1519-italy>