



The Castiglioni world map records the new discoveries between Florida and Newfoundland made on the voyages of Ayllon's pilots and of Gomes in 1524--5. It is the earliest map to follow the delineation of the east coast which is found after this date on maps derived from the official charts of the pilot Major in Seville, as may be seen by comparing this detail with the *Ribero* planisphere of 1529 (#346). Above the New England coast is the legend that it is the '*Land which Estevan G6mez discovered this year of 1525 by order of his Majesty*'. Examination of the coast south of New England by Gomes was very cursory; he may have relied entirely on reports from the voyage sent out by Ayllon in 1520--1. Gomes missed New York Harbor, which Verrazzano had discovered a few months earlier. The bay half way up the coast may be Long Island Sound; on some maps the cape has two prongs similar to the east end of Long Island. The projection is commonly identified as Cape Cod. Unlike other coastlines on the map, the coastal contours between Florida and Newfoundland are lightly drawn with few place names; Professor Ganong has suggested that the map, based on the official *padr6n real*, was prepared earlier but awaited the return of Gomes, with hoped-for news of a westward passage, for its completion.

According to a family tradition in Mantua, the map was given by Charles V to Count Baldassare Castiglioni, papal nuncio of Clement VII, who had won the Emperor's friendship and admiration. Charles V may have intended the great chart for presentation to the Pope; if so, a rapid sequence of events would have prevented it. A few months later, early in 1526, Clement VII made a league with Francis I, the Emperor's bitter foe. The next year the Pope, pursued from the Vatican by the victorious troops of Charles V, barely escaped with his life. Although in 1529 the two were reconciled, the noble Baldassare, torn with grief by his divided loyalties and by the accusation of treachery, had died. The map, for whomever it may have been intended, went to Mantua.

Although he did not return to France with gold or news of a route to Cathay, Francis and the court received him with honor for his undoubted skill and achievements. He traded and made valuable friendships with the Indians he met. He sailed in unknown waters with rocks and shoals, through a labyrinth of islands, and with the additional hazards of field ice, fogs, and heavy storms. He had a motley crew, with convicts from the jails, whom he kept under control. He found a vast new sea bordered by lands yet unexplored. And he returned to France with both ships and without having lost a man.

The Castiglioni world map is a perfect example of the official representation of the world after its circumnavigation by Magellan-Elcano in 1519-22. It shows the technical and scientific advances in the art of cartography, and contributed to open a new era in the knowledge and expansion of the world in the 16th century. The map, also known as *Planisfero Castiglioni*, is drawn on four sheets of vellum, measuring all together 82 x 214 cm. Although it is not signed, it is believed that the map was made by Diego Ribeiro (d. 1533, see #346), a cartographer working for the *Casa de Contratación* in Seville, the official agency that administered financial and legal overseas matters for the Spanish Empire.

The decorative features of the map include several wind roses and a large circular table of declinations representing zodiacal signs and the months of the years. At the lower left, we can see a horary quadrant, used to find the time of the day by measuring the sun's altitude. This element was a usual feature of Diego Ribeiro's maps.



The map reflects the political and geographical situation of the first decades after the discovery of the New World. The coats of arms of Castile and León and Portugal are shown at the bottom of the planisphere, pointing out the division of the newly discovered parts of the world between both kingdoms after the *Treaty of Tordesillas* (1494).

According to the tradition of early modern nautical charts, the coastlines are marked with numerous place names, and the map combines Latin and Spanish inscriptions. The cities of Cairo and Jerusalem are prominently depicted, including the scene of the Crucifixion in Jerusalem.

This map is characterized by high accuracy in the forms of the continents, including the Eastern coast of South America and the Caribbean. The accuracy in the depiction of Brazil is outstanding since that territory was first visited by Europeans only 25 years before the map was made.

The technical care in the design of the map is a common feature of the works of Diego Ribeiro. He was one of the most important cartographers of the 16th century. Working as a cosmographer for Emperor Charles V since 1518, he was the head cartographer of the *Casa de Contratación*, as well as its 'Piloto Mayor'. He was also the author of several copies of the *Padrón Real*, the official map used as a template for all Spanish ships during the sixteenth century, from which this planisphere may derive.

On 4th February 1530, six years after the death of the well-known Italian courtier and author Baldassare Castiglione, his mother commissioned an inventory of the books and manuscripts he owned in Toledo, Castiglione's place of death. One of the items listed was a "navigation map on parchment", dated in 1525 and given probably by Emperor Charles V to Castiglione.

This map is known as the Castiglioni world map, for it was owned by the Castiglioni family until 2000, when it was purchased by the Italian state and assigned to the Estense Library in Modena, where it is currently held. The *Planisferio* was placed in a special area on purpose to be displayed in the Hall of the Estense Library "can-port" along with other important cartographic documents. The facsimile edition of this beautiful and interesting world map was made in their original format, with an additional volume (in Italian) and the registration certificate, presented in a box kit 83 x 15 x 16 cm. The edition, numbered and limited, was only 499 copies.



