

Portuguese *and* Brazilian Books  
*in the*  
John Carter Brown Library

[537/1]

Tratado da sphaera com a Theorica do Sol & da Lua. E ho primeiro liuro da Geographia de Claudio Ptolomeo Alexãdrino. Tirados nouamente de Latim em lingoagem pello Doutor Pero Nunez Cosmographo del Rey dõ João ho terceyro deste nome nosso Senhor. E acrescêtidos de muitas annotações & figuras per que mays facilmente se podem entender. Item dous tratados q̃ o mesmo Doutor fez sobre a Carta de marear. Em os quaes se decrarão todas as principaes duuidas da nauegação. Cõ as tauoas do mouimento do sol: & sua declinação. E o Regimêto da altura assi ao meyo dia: como nos outros tempos.

*Lixboa: Per Germão Galharde empremidor, Ao primeiro dia do mes de Dezembro. De. 1537. annos.*

[180] p.: ill.; 30 cm. (fol.)

"This work has been called by John Parry 'one of the ablest and most original navigational treatises of its century,' in which the practice of navigation and cartography entered the realm of exact science. One of Nunes's many remarkable discoveries and inventions was the 'shadow instrument,' which served to calculate the magnetic variation of a compass needle from true north and also made it possible to determine latitude from the observation of the sun's height at any time of the day, not just at noon as was the usual practice." (Schaeffer)

"This famous book by the great Portuguese cosmographer Pedro Nunes (1502-1578) . . . is extraordinarily rare. . . . The reference to Brazil among lands recently discovered appears on ff. B and Bvii." (Moraes)

The first part of the book contains a Portuguese translation of Joannes de Sacro Bosco's *Sphaera mundi*, an essay by Peurbach on the sun and moon, and an excerpt from Ptolemy's *Geographia*.

Manuscript annotations.

Provenance: Manoel de Figueiredo (signature of the seventeenth-century Portuguese pilot on title page).

*References:* Alden-Landis. *European Americana* 537/15; Anselmo, A. *Bib. Portugal* s. 16, 614; Church, E. *Discovery*, 76a; Maggs Bros. *Bibliotheca brasiliensis*, 23; Manuel II. *Livros antigos portuguezes*, I, p. 542; Moraes, R. B. de. *Bib. brasiliana* (1983 ed.), p. 622; Sabin 56320; Schaeffer, D. *Portuguese exploration*, p. 6; Silva, I. *Dic. bib. portuguez*, VI, p. 439.

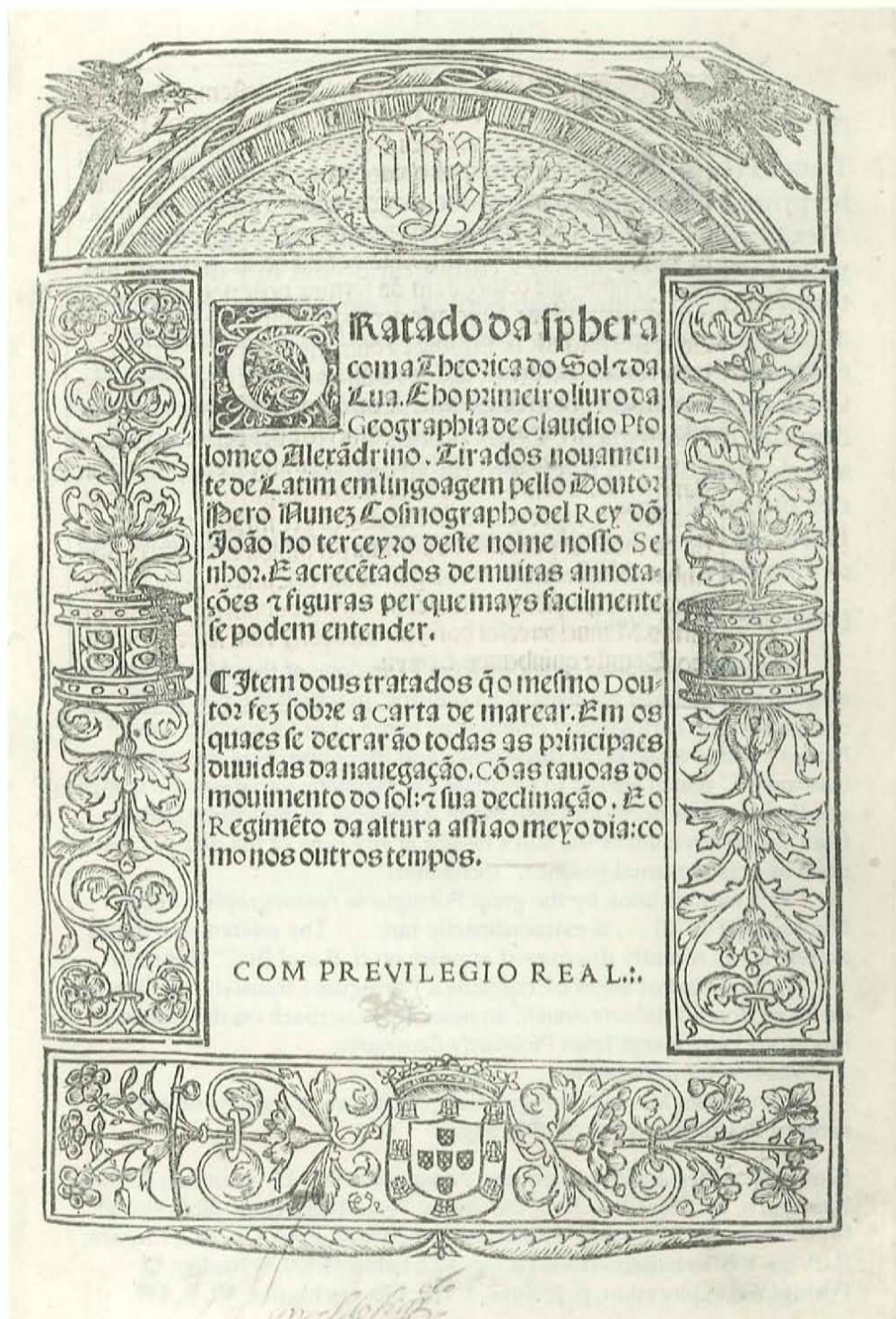


Fig. 1 (537/1) *Tratado da sphaera*. One of the first books to include nautical charts as they are known today.

## ☞ 1551

[551/1]

**Castanheda, Fernão Lopes de** (d. 1559)

[História do descobrimento e conquista da Índia pelos portugueses. Book I]

Historia do descobrimento & conquista da India pelos Portugueses. Feyta per Fernão Lopez de Castanheda. E aprouada pelos senhores deputados da sancta Inquisição. *Foy Impresso este primeiro livro da Historia da India em a muyto nobre & leal cidade de Coimbra: Por Iohão da Barreyra & Iohão Alvarez, empressores del Rey na mesma universidade, Acabouse aos seys dias do mes de Marco. De M.D.LI [1551].*

[4], 267, [1] p.; 19 cm. (8vo)

"Only three copies are known of this edition of the first volume: that in the Biblioteca d'Ajuda, in the British Museum, and the one which belonged to King Manuel. The excessive rarity of this volume is explained as follows by Diogo do Couto (Decada 4, Book V, Chapter 1): 'We were told by reliable persons that King João had ordered the seizure of this volume at the request of several fidalgos, because it contained truths.'" (Moraes)

The importance of this book was immediately recognized in other countries with translations into French, Spanish, Italian, and English, all during the sixteenth century. "One of the very few English editions of Portuguese books published during the XVIth century was an English translation of book I, by Nicholas Lichefield, dedicated to Sir Francis Drake, and printed by Thomas East of London in 1582." (Manuel II)

Copy lacks [4] preliminary pages, pages 1-2, 63-64, and 143-144; it has reproductions from photographs of the British Museum copy.

Acquired with the assistance of the Benefactors Fund.

*References:* Alden-Landis. *European Americana* 551/29; Anselmo, A. *Bib. Portugal* s. 16, 281; Barbosa Machado. *Bibliotheca lusitana*, II, p. 30; Manuel II. *Livros antigos portuguezes*, II, p. 272; Moraes, R. B. de. *Bib. brasiliana* (1983 ed.), p. 164; Pinto de Mattos. *Manual bib. portuguez*, p. 134; Silva, I. *Dic. bib. portuguez*, II, p. 284.

1552

[552/1]

**Barros, João de** (1496-1570)[Ásia. 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> decades]

Asia de Joam de Barros/dos factos que os Portugueses fizeram no descobrimento [et] conquista dos mares [et] terras do Oriente.

[Lisbon]: *Impressa per Germão Galharde em Lixboa, a. xxviii. de Junho anno de. m.vC.lii-M.D.Liiij* [1552-1553].

2 v.; 36 cm. (fol.)

“João de Barros is one of the most famous Portuguese chroniclers. He lived during the reigns of King Manuel (1495-1521) and King João III (1521-1557), who appointed Barros as governor of El Mina (1522), made him chief factor of the India House (1532), and finally awarded to him the captaincy of Maranhão in Brazil in 1539, making Barros one of the first Brazilian ‘donatários.’ His four *Decadas*, published in 1552, 1553, 1563, and 1615, record Portuguese voyages and empire building in the Far East, but he also reports in detail about the early years of Portuguese exploration of the West African coast.” (Schaeffer)

João de Barros, royal chronicler, called attention to the use of the name Santa Cruz (Holy Cross) instead of Brasil (from *pau brasil*, for its red color) in order not to please the devil (leaf 56, v. 1). Gândavo would opt for the use of Santa Cruz almost 20 years later.

Foliation: v. 1: [2], 128; v. 2: [2], 143 leaves.

Leaves 68 and 79, v. 1 misnumbered 58 and 78; leaves 53, 77, 79 and 100, v. 2 misnumbered 49, 73, 78 and 97 respectively.

Stains on preliminary leaves, v. 1 and 2.

Acquired with the assistance of the Harper Fund.

*References:* Alden-Landis. *European Americana* 552/4 and 553/9; Anselmo, A. *Bib. Portugal* s. 16, 648; Barbosa Machado. *Bibliotheca lusitana*, II, p. 606; Manuel II. *Livros antigos portuguezes*, II, p. 286; Moraes, R. B. de. *Bib. brasiliana* (1983 ed.) p. 86; Pinto de Mattos. *Manual bib. portuguez*, p. 63; Schaeffer, D. *Portuguese exploration*, p. 16; Silva, I. *Dic. bib. portuguez*, III, p. 321.

[552/2]

**Castanheda, Fernão Lopes de** (d. 1559)

[História do descobrimento e conquista da Índia pelos portugueses. Books 1-8]

Ho liuro primeiro dos dez da historia do descobrimento & conquista da India pelos Portugueses. Agora emmêdado &