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## Document 1521E

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# Magellan's voyage—Anonymous Portuguese manuscript

*Sources: Original manuscript located in the library of the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, bound as Folios 239-254 of the Vossius Codex, n° 41 Cat. Voss. Lat. Fo. Bibl. Univ. Lugdano-Batavae.<sup>1</sup> It was published in the original Portuguese by M. de Jong in 1937: **Um roteiro inédito da circunnavegação de Fernão de Magalhães** (University of Coimbra, 1937). De Jong attributes the authorship of this tale to Diogo do Couto. However, a study made by Pierre Valière: **Le voyage de Magellan raconté par un homme qui fut en sa compagnie** (Paris, 1976), puts forward the idea that this manuscript is based upon the journal of Gonzalo Gomez de Espinosa, now lost.*

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 [Folio 247 verso] ...and, seeing himself in such an open sea for navigation, he took a northwest course looking for the equinoctial line. He sailed for two or more months on this course with good weather without ever [fol. 248 recto] seeing anything other than sea and sky; this run was always favorable to him, by the grace of God. Having advanced more than one thousand leagues, he found near the line **two islands**, not big ones, populated with brown people with loose hair, handsome, savage, naked without any clothes nor polish whatever.<sup>2</sup> These have small craft in which many of them came to our *naos*<sup>3</sup> without any shyness as if they were good acquaintances and with the same boldness they took what they came across as if it were theirs, in such a way that they could not stop them peacefully until they aggressively repelled them with sticks. And they, having launched their small fleet, wanted to attack those in the *naos* and they shot arrows at them, but those in the *naos*, with little effort, defended themselves and killed

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- 1 According to the Dutch historian P. A. Tiele [1834-1889], who left a note in French within the codex, this account would have been dictated by a person who had been in the company of Magellan, many years after his return to Europe.
  - 2 Ed. note: The author means without refinement.
  - 3 Ed. note: The generic term for ship. The Spanish used the word *nao* also, in addition to *nave* or *navio*, whereas *bajel* was their generic term for vessel.



many until they out-distanced them. They gave a name to these islands, the Islands of Thieves, on account of the bad boldness they say they found there and, because of these people and [because] the land [was] without provisions, they proceeded forward.

From these islands westward, along the line by 3 or 4 degrees of southern latitude<sup>1</sup>, they sailed for 15 or 20 days in fair weather, for a distance that looked like 300 leagues or more without discovering any land, at the end of which they discovered many populated islands [i.e. the Philippines]...

### Original text of the Portuguese manuscript

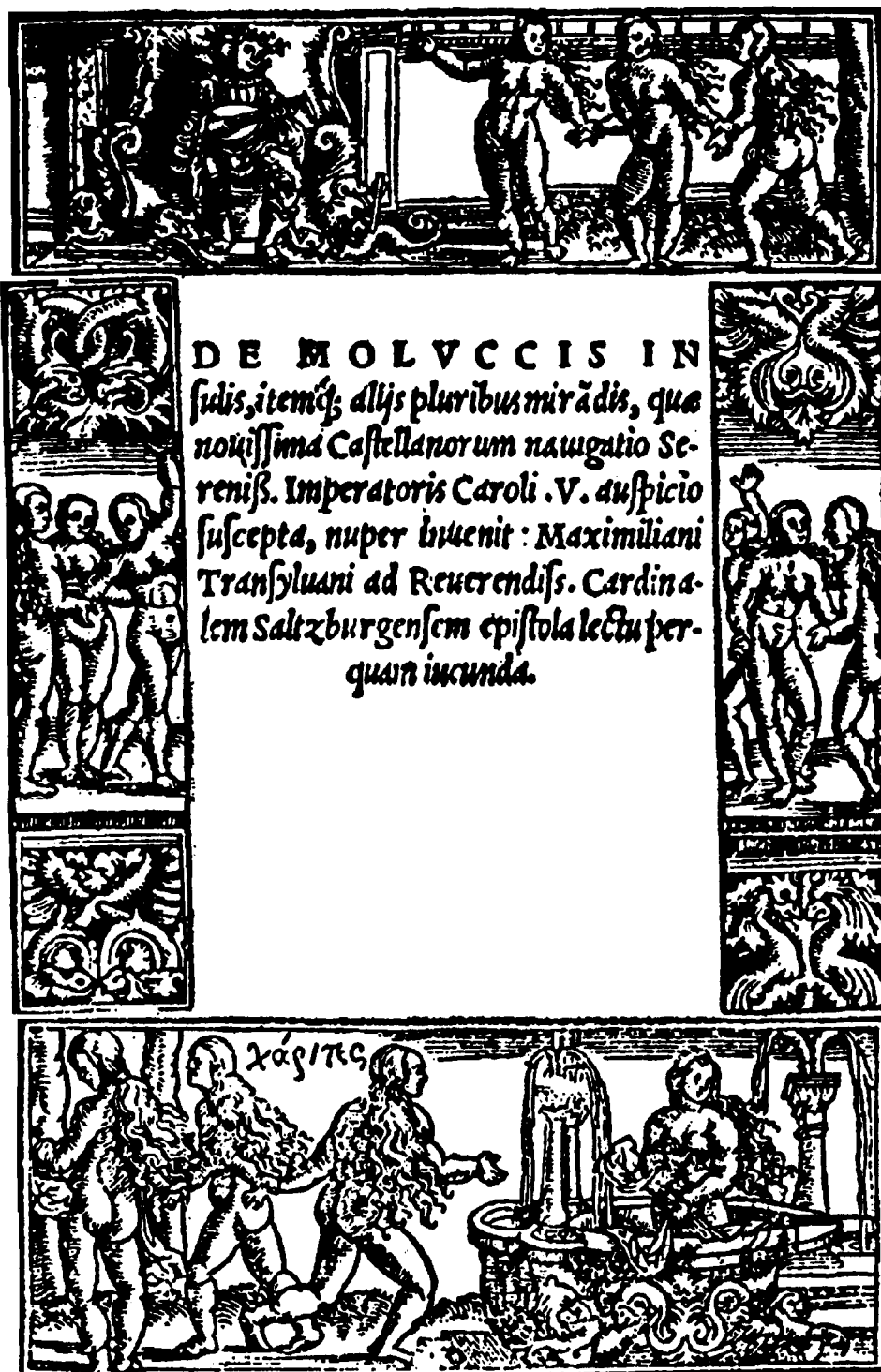
[Folio 247 verso] ... *E vendose em mar tam livre para poder navegar, tomou a derrota do norueste buscando a linha equinocial. Pela qual derrota navegou dos meses ou mais com bom tempo sem nunca*

[folio 248 recto] *ver outra coisa senão mar e ceu, o qual naquella corda sempre lhe foi favoravel pela bondade de Deus. Tendo andado mais de mil leguas, achou perto da linha duas ilhas, não grandes, povadas de gente parda de cabelo corredio, gentios, salvages, nus sem vestido nem pollicia alguma. Estes tem almadias en que vierão às nossas naos muitos deles sem pejo nenhum como se forão muito conhecidos e com o mesmo despejo tomavam quanto achavam como si fora seu, de tal maneira que lho não poderam defender por bem até que por mal os lançaram fora às porradas e leles lançados com sua pouca força queriam offender os das naos mas das naos com pouco [os] das naos com pouco trabalho se defendiam e matavam muitos até se alongar deles. Poseram nome a estas ilhas, as ilhas dos Ladrões, pelo mal despejo que diz que neles acharam e por ser gente e terra sem proveito passaram adiante.*

*Destas ilhas para ponente ao longo da linha em tres ou quatro graus da banda do sul navegaram quinze ou vinte dias com bonança, que parece ser caminho de treszentas leguas ou mais sem achar terra laguma, a cabo dos quales dias acharam muitas ilhas povadas...*

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1 Ed. note: The actual latitude was 13 or 14 degrees of north latitude. See previous and more authoritative accounts.



First edition of the account by Maximilian Transylvanus. Cover page of the Latin edition printed in Cologne in January 1523.