
Document 1527B

Saavedra's voyages—Narrative attributed to Saavedra, as recorded by the clerk Granado

Source: Navarrete's Colección, vol. V, Doc. XXXVI, pp. 465-475. Also in the Rivadeneira Collection, vol. 77, pp. 266-272. It was copied by Muñoz on 26 October 1791 from a badly-written manuscript of the period in the Upper Library of the Escorial, found in a folio codex labelled Miscellaneous 2. & 7., folios 373-381. Note that Pastor y Santos¹, after comparing two transcripts he saw in the Dirección de Hidrografía, has noted that Navarrete has omitted many sheets from the original manuscript, no doubt because they were undecipherable.

Account of the voyage made by Alvaro de Saavedra from the west coast of New Spain to the Moluccas.

The voyage of discovery that I have made to the Spice Islands from New Spain to the Moluccas, is as follows:

I departed from the port of Zihuatanejo, which is in New Spain in the province of Zacatula, on Thursday the eve of All Saints' Day, i.e. on the last day of October 1527, with two ships and a brig. On this day I headed WSW and made 6 leagues.

On Friday next, 1st day of November, same heading 8 leagues. On this day, the surgeon whose name was Master Francisco, died and his body was cast into the sea.

Saturday next, 2nd of November, made S 10 leagues, because the wind did not allow me to go WSW, which was our planned heading.

Sunday next, made SW 14 leagues.

Monday next, 5th [i.e. 4th] of the said month, same heading 17 leagues.

Tuesday next, made WSW 25 leagues.

Wednesday next, same heading 14 leagues.

Thursday next, same heading 25 leagues.

Friday next, 17 leagues. It is understood that the day includes the corresponding night also.

1 Emilio Pastor y Santos, "Territorios de soberanía española en Oceanía", Madrid, 1950, page 137.

Saturday next, 20 leagues.

Sunday next, 20 leagues.

Monday next, 20 leagues.

Tuesday next, 8 leagues.

Wednesday next, made 7 leagues. On this day, a large leak was discovered in the ship I was in, under the bread supply which was stored aft of the stern hole, and it could not be stopped in any way. I had to lighten the ship by throwing some bread into the sea, about 30 quintals, and some meat and other things. The leak was such that the ship was listing. During that night and the following day, I had to have men come 30 times from the other ship to help get rid of the water.

Thursday next, I made W 42 leagues.

Friday next, 37 leagues. On this day, many land birds and other signs of land were seen.¹

Saturday next, made 40 leagues.

Sunday next, made 40 leagues.

Monday next, made 35 leagues.

Tuesday next, made 40 leagues.

Wednesday next, made 45 leagues.

Thursday next, made 30 leagues.

Friday next, made 35 leagues.

Saturday next, made 25 leagues.

Sunday next, made 35 leagues.

Monday next, made 40 leagues.

Tuesday next, made 28 leagues.

Wednesday next, made 8 leagues. From this day until Friday midnight, I was becalmed and then turned to N by W in search of land which my men had seen the day before. I followed this new heading for 40 leagues.

On Friday at midnight, I headed back to W, and by Sunday I made 40 leagues along that heading.

Monday, the 2nd of December, made 40 leagues.

Tuesday, made 38 leagues.

Wednesday, made 47 leagues.

Thursday, made 40 leagues.

Friday, made 40 leagues.

Saturday, made 18 leagues.

Sunday, 8th of December, made 30 leagues.

Monday, made 38 leagues.

Tuesday, made 40 leagues.

On Wednesday, our pilot wishing to go W by N, we made 28 leagues [along that heading].

¹ Ed. note: They were probably near Clipperton Island.

Thursday next, same heading 38 leagues. On this day the pilot took the sun's elevation in 11°2' N.

Friday, made 18 leagues.

Saturday, 21 December¹, made 40 leagues.

Sunday, made 38 leagues. On this night, I became separated from the other ships, as they from me, on account of the storm.²

Monday, did not see the other ships. Made 30 leagues westbound in search of the Ladrões.

Tuesday, made 22 leagues.

Wednesday, we lowered the sail after 5 o'clock until daybreak. This same day, made 14 leagues.

Thursday, same heading 18 leagues.

Friday, made 28 leagues. On this day, frigate birds began to appear.³

Saturday, made W 28 leagues.

Sunday, 22 December, made W 20 leagues.

Monday, made 30 leagues. On this day, we saw many land birds.⁴

Tuesday, 24 December, made W and SW 30 leagues.

Wednesday, made W 25 leagues.

Thursday next, as usual including the corresponding night, I made 28 leagues.

Friday next, made 30 leagues.

Saturday next, made 22 leagues along the same course. On this day, the pilot aboard ordered a change in heading to SW in order to fetch the mouth of the Archipelago.⁵ This decision was taken after sunset, and I ran that night SW as many as 10 leagues.

On Sunday next, at daybreak of the 29th of the said month of December, one **island** appeared and we went toward it. While we were coasting it, five to six sails appeared and I went toward them in order to make contact and learn which island it was, but they all fled.⁶ The pilot assured me that this was the Island of Thieves [i.e. Guam] where

1 Obviously an error of 1 week in date. The correct date was 14 December.

2 Ed. note: Navarrete, however, in his own narrative in the first part of his Vol. V, says that the flagship stalled with the sails flapping, as a result of an error made by the helmsman, and the sails were lowered.. Meanwhile, the other two ships kept on going in the dark... They were never seen again.

3 Ed. note: They were approaching the northern Marshalls, perhaps N of Bikar.

4 Ed. note: They were then probably N of Eniwetok. Navarrete says that they were white and brown *grajos*, which means roods or jack-daws, and other birds. The distance to Guam seems grossly underestimated, but even Loaysa had underestimated it by 25%.

5 Ed. note: The Molucca Passage.

6 Ed. note; The natives of Guam had not forgotten their 11 countrymen who had been kidnapped by Captain Salazar the previous year.

they had stolen Magellan's boat. I maneuvered near this island for two days and one night¹ looking for an issue [i.e. anchorage] but one could not be found; even at 100 paces from the shore, we could not find bottom with 120 fathoms of line. We spent Sunday and its night in this way.

On Monday, at the hour of vespers, I ordered the Master to do what he had to do to take stocks of our provisions. The pilot decided that the ship should go west in search of the island of Bimian², because he thought that we could perhaps find the other ships there; if not, from there we would go to the island of Grade. Hence, the distance we covered on Monday evening was about 6 leagues.

Tuesday, made W 36 leagues.

[Ulithi re-discovered]

Wednesday, which was figured out as the 1st day of the month of January, of the first [month] of the year 1528, at the hour of vespers, I arrived at an island that had two other small islands, all of them low-lying. I ran as many as 30 leagues along part of it, and came to an anchor; I remained all night at anchor.³

The next day, Thursday, in the morning, I sent the pilot with the boat to see if he could find a place to anchor nearer this island and he found bottom everywhere, but all of it "dirty".⁴ However, I could not get near the shore, because the wind was contrary and too strong. So, I remained at anchor here all day Thursday and following night, filling up some butts with salt water to use as ballast. On this day also, we saw a sail in the distance and I could not find out who it was.

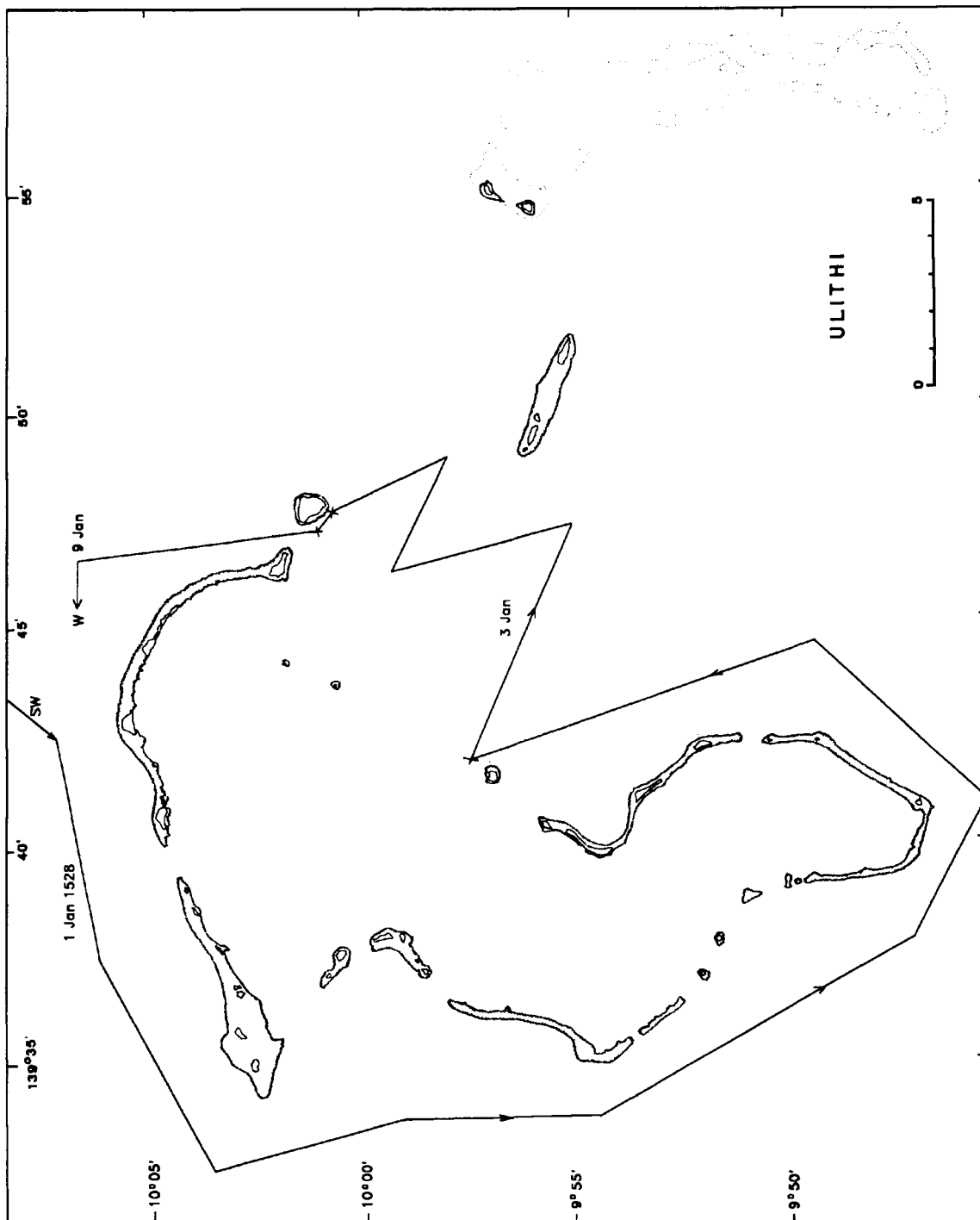
Friday next, I raised anchor and came toward the small island that was as many as 4 leagues from this other where I had anchored. As I was making for it, the above-mentioned sail appeared at the same island that I was approaching; as a result [of the distraction], we almost became grounded on the said island. I sent the boat ashore with

1 Ed. note: On Sunday 29th, the night of 29/30, and the better part of Monday 30th December 1527.

2 Ed. note: The Mexicans were not as favored as Loaysa had been in having up-to-date maps. I do not recall seeing the word Bimian, nor the word Grade either, on any chart. Perhaps they are wrong transcriptions from the illegible original manuscript. My guess is that the islands in question were Mindanao and Ternate respectively.

3 Ed. note: The distance of 30 leagues is grossly exaggerated, or a transcription error, as it could not be covered from the time of vespers until nightfall, even by counting the zigzagging distance against the wind (See my chart of the probable track near Ulithi). It is becoming increasingly clear that Spanish sailors had a tendency of under-estimating distances in the open sea, and over-estimating the size of low-lying islands. For instance, the pilot estimated 72 leagues from Guam, whereas a good estimate is about 100 leagues. I could also mention here that the translation made by Wright excludes the words "along part of it", although they are crucial to a proper interpretation.

4 Ed. note: A dirty bottom in this case had to be one with coral shoals.



Probable track of the ship Florida, Captain Saavedra, January 1528. *“An island [atoll] that had two other small islands [atolls]”, says Saavedra. The group had been discovered 2 years earlier by the Portuguese captain Da Rocha. The Florida probably left the atoll by the north side, because they missed sighting Yap later on.*

the master-at-arms and 15 men to make contact. He went toward a point to which the said sail had fled and he found two native boats, but they did not wish to wait for him. They raised their sails and went away, so that he was unable to find out who they were.

Saturday next, I myself stepped ashore and brought the pilot with me and some men to look for water. The pilot took the sun's elevation and found it to be 11 degrees from the equinoctial line.¹ On this day, I had a well dug to find water but it came out salty. I went to another, higher, point of the island and we found good water, and I took twelve butts of water, of which we were much in need.

On Sunday next, at the hour of the mass, two sails came out of a island [Asor?] bigger than all the others mentioned before, and higher than the one where I was [Falalep?], and they came toward the island where I was to find out who we were. They anchored at gun range from where I was. As it happens, I had already sent two men from my company [along the beach] in the direction where they were anchored, and as they saw them approach, four [natives] stepped ashore and went to speak to the two from my company. They were standing together for a while, at a great distance from where I was, not going anywhere. Having seen this, I sent there another man from my company to try and negotiate with them, so that one of the Spaniards would stay in their boats, and the other two would bring one of the natives to me, in order to see what kind of people they were or what they looked like. Well, although I arranged for the above-said negotiation, to leave such hostages, they did not wish to give me one in return, even though two of the men from my company offered themselves as hostages. Rather, they boarded their boats and went away. What was learned from all this is that these people are naked, bearded, and long-faced. They wear in front of their natures a certain small palm thing, woven like some of our textiles. As for the boats that they came in, they are such fast sailers that none of our ships could compete with them.

I remained anchored here until Wednesday, figured as the 8th of January, taking on the above-mentioned water. Here I had two mooring cables damaged, because the [bottom] was so "dirty". I went out of here by towing with much work and danger, because there were many shoals. At this island, I left a letter inside a jar buried at the foot of a tall tree, with markings on the tree pointing to it, so that, should anyone come looking for me, he would learn where I was going, and so that the reason for my plan would remain in the ..., etc.

I departed from the above-said island on Wednesday evening of the 8th of the said month. My sails remained lowered all night and until 10 a.m. on Thursday, when the boat was loaded. I headed west in search of Huran² and made 37 leagues.

1 Ed. note: His latitude, taken ashore, is expected to be less than 1 degree in error. In fact, Falalep, which island it probably was, is at 10 degrees plus. As I have already mentioned in connection with the Magellan expedition, the small errors made by Spanish navigators were probably due more to their bad almanachs rather than improper use of the astrolabes.

2 Ed. note: Muñoz had problems guessing the proper names. This could be the same as the earlier Bimian, i.e. Mindanao.

Saturday next, I made 18 leagues on the same heading.

Sunday next, I made W 13 leagues.

Monday next, I made 15 leagues.

Tuesday next, I made 12 leagues. On this day, many land birds and driftwood were seen.¹

Wednesday next, I made 13 leagues. On this day also, we saw much driftwood.

Thursday, I made 16 leagues.

Friday, I made 12 leagues. For the past **six** days, tree branches and leaves and many signs of land were seen.

Saturday, I was becalmed.

Sunday, I made 15 leagues.

Monday, I made 10 leagues.

Tuesday, I made 12 leagues.

Wednesday, I made 8 leagues.

Thursday and Friday, the men were mutinous because of the calm weather and their great unhappiness.

Saturday, 25 January, and that night, I made 10 leagues.

...

Navarrete's synopsis of the rest of the forward voyage via Mindanao as far as the Sarangani Islands.

On this day [25 January 1528], the pilot and one blacksmith died, and there was no other pilot left. Saavedra thought he was at 70 leagues from the mouth of Larcapilla [sic]. He named as pilot a certain Vinreo [or Viurco], who knew nothing about taking the sun but he was a good seaman and he was good at dead reckoning.

On the 26th, still heading W, they made 11 leagues, on the 27th 18 leagues, on the 28th 10, and 18 leagues on each of the following dates, 29th, 30th and 31st, because they then had fresh winds.

On the 1st of February, in the afternoon, they saw **land**. On the 2nd, they went to it and anchored. On the 3rd, they remained at anchor. On the 4th, a certain Cansinola died. They set sail and went to the big island in the cove and anchored there. In the afternoon, a canoe came up with 7 people aboard shouting "Castile, Castile". On the 5th in the morning, another big canoe came up with 14 persons (according to Saavedra, or about 25 according to Nápoles). When the captain saw them, he sent a gentleman named Pedro Laso with 10 or 12 men and one negro from Calient [Calicut?] as an interpreter to see who they were, and to get sailing directions for the Moluccas. The negro did not understand them, even though he said he did, and the nearer our people approached them, the farther they were retreating. Finally, with signs and by stopping to show them their peaceful intentions, the Indians were convinced to wait next to some trees called mangrove. Those in the boat took two or three blankets, of the type made

1 Ed. note: They probably had passed north of Palau, at a latitude of about 9° N.

in Mexico, and on account of the fright the Indians showed, they threw the blankets into the water. After they picked them up, they bowed as they do to their kings, and those in the boat thought that they were saying thanks to God. At that moment, they went home, and our people returned to the ship to report to the captain.

Saavedra decided to beach the ship on account of the leakage. They removed the water from it and afterwards put it afloat, where it remained anchored. During these proceedings, one day they saw the canoe and the captain told the said Pedro Laso to take 7 or 8 men with the boat and go to the canoe. When those in the canoe saw them, they stopped and waited for them near the shore. They then told those in the boat to put out the fire they were carrying for firing the weapons; they agreed but they hid the fire at the poop. The Indians then went immediately to the boat, removed their weapons and put them down, and our men did the same. As they met, they embraced one another and made friends. Our people invited them to the ship to see the captain, but they answered that they would go fishing first and bring the fish along.

At about 4 in the afternoon, they did in fact go toward the ship but refused to go near. They stopped at half the range of a crossbow at the poop. Then, the captain ordered the master-at-arms to jump into the boat and go with 6 men where they were and ask them why they did not wish to come aboard. They answered that they feared firearms. However, they agreed to exchange two of our men for two of theirs who came to the ship.

Captain Saavedra received them very well, as he needed their help to acquire some supplies of meat, chickens, coconuts, rice and other things they might have ashore. However, they went around the ship inspecting the guns and equipment, and then when they had seen it all very well, they said they wished to go. The captain gave them some beads, clubs, some valuables and pearls, and when they had received them, he ordered that they be taken to the canoe.

When the boat got near the canoe, the two Indians told those in the canoe to make ready to take all those in the boat and make them prisoners. As they were talking, one of the Spaniards from the boat, whose name was San Juan, told the others that if they had some weapons, they had better make them ready because he did not know what those Indians were plotting to do. Aboard the boat, there was nothing but one sword, and they used it to defend themselves against them, wounding three of them in the process, and they returned to the ship. When the captain saw that, he wanted to shoot a gun to help the boat, but he did not risk harming any man.

Afterwards, the Indians came with their canoes to fight those of the nao with guns. However, when they got tired of it, and saw they could not get anywhere, they went home and left them.

Saavedra left that bay, and went to two islets which were 4 leagues further, and he remained there a few days.

On 23 February, he left these islets, and headed south toward the Moluccas, given that the coast was trending N—S.

On the 24th, as they were something like 3 leagues from the coast, a canoe came out that had 14 oarsmen and a flag showing. There was a king aboard named Catemao. When he came aboard, he showed them a cove where they could get some water, rice and someone who knew the Spanish language. Saavedra went toward the said cove and anchored at one crossbow range from the shore.

Then the Indians saw that the ship was anchored, they came alongside and asked for some jars to bring them water. From the ship they threw a few of the clay jars they carried for that purpose. They took them, and asked those aboard whence they came. They answered that they came from very far away. They asked if they needed rice and coconuts, and the answer was yes. Our men spotted a red round bonnet and they thought the Indians had some contact with the Portuguese. They went ashore and having returned with the water, they said that they did not wish to come alongside. The captain ordered that a man should jump in the boat and get the jars. When they had given them up, they asked the ship to wait, that the next day they would return with the rice and the coconuts. Our people remained there, hoping very much to get refreshments, but the Indians went home to figure out a way to take our people and the ship.

On the 25th, they came to the ship with a few small canoes; however, when they were near, they veered off not wanting to come alongside, as if they were men who were hiding their own game. A canoe came up with the son-in-law of the king ashore in whose port they were anchored. He came aboard with his infant son in his arms and spoke with the captain. The captain gave him some blankets for him and for the boy, and asked him to send them something to eat, that he would be paid well. He said that he would do it, and afterward said that he wished to go ashore where the other people and his father-in-law were waiting. In the meantime, 11 canoes came alongside and they brought green barks of trees which they said were cinnamon; some branches of the tree they gave to Saavedra. They also brought coconuts, rice and chickens like those of Spain. Saavedra gave them one axe made in New Spain for one cock, and without bartering anything else, they said goodbye and went ashore.

Later, after nightfall, the Indians made a rope out of some plant called *rota* [rattan], and *bejuco* [reed] in New Spain, and at midnight, two canoes went where the ship had one anchor without a buoy. Those aboard were watching, but the Indians went to it by swimming underwater, cut the cable at about the middle and tied their rope to the end of the cable that was tied to the ship, and using the other end to steal our anchor that had been in 10 fathoms. They went back ashore to pull our ship in.

The Indians tried hard but they could not do it, because, although they had cut off one mooring cable, there was still another one seaward. There were ashore two Christian prisoners with their hands tied, so they asked them why they could not pull the ship ashore. They answered that they did not know. They were then told: "Sure, you know, but you don't want to say it." The Christians then said that it could be that there was another anchor overboard on the sea side of the ship. As soon as they heard this, the Indians boarded a small canoe and went off to the ship to cut the other cable. They got under the bow where someone was watching, but he did not harm them on orders from

the captain. However, when they noticed that the Indians wanted to cut the mooring cable, they went to tell the captain who answered that they should warn them off. When the Indians heard the warning, they fled laughing, and went ashore where the king was. It was then daybreak, and they retired to their houses.

[News about the Loaysa and Magellan expeditions]

On the 26th, one of the men they held captive, got himself loose and fled to the bush where he stayed until the Indians had left. Immediately afterwards, he made for the beach facing the ship and made signs for the boat to come and get him. The captain could not decide whether he should risk it, fearing that it was some Indian trick to steal the boat. At that very moment, it occurred to someone that it could be a Christian, on account of the king's son [-in-law] who spoke Spanish so clearly that it might be a possibility. So, the captain ordered the boat made ready to go and see who he was, as he had called many times.

Some 10 to 12 men jumped into the boat and went off toward the said man. Then, when he saw the boat coming, he ran and threw himself in and swam to it. They took him in and brought him to the ship. The captain asked him who he was, and he said he was with Commander Fray García de Loaysa's fleet. His name was Sebastián de Puerta, a native of La Coruña, with a wife in that city. He was from the galleon **Parral**, one in the fleet whose captain was Don Jorge Manrique, a native of Salamanca, in whose company there was a Bachelor Tarragona and Agustín Varela as master. He also said that the island where they were is called Bizaya¹ and it has provinces whose names are Rijalia [or Bixalia], Catile, Ratabaluy and Maluarbuco.² He said that the **Parral** arrived at the province of Ratabaluy, where it anchored, and early the next day the boat went ashore with Bachelor Tarragona, Andrés de Aragón and 11 companions. The local king whose name was Catunao³ jumped, saying that they were his enemies about to rob, and up to 200 men jumped the boat. They killed the Bachelor, and 8 others, and made this Sebastián de Puerta and three other ship's boys prisoners. They brought him to the province of Maluarbuco, which is located about 20 leagues N of that of Ratabaluy. Afterwards, the galleon **Parral** set sail going north along the coast up to 12 leagues, where it remained anchored for three weeks. Later on, it sailed back south along the coast. About one year later, he learned from the Indians that, after the galleon had spent

1 Ed. note: This corresponds, I think, to Bislig. This name is restricted to a town and bay on the east coast of Mindanao today. It is possible, from what is said immediately below, that the whole region of Surigao was then called Bislig. The word Visaya is used here outside the present-day Visayas, the island region of the Philippines to the north of Mindanao. It is quite possible, however, that Visayan-speaking people inhabited that region then. After all, five years earlier Magellan met a chief of Butuan and Caraga [Surigao] at the island of Limasawa...

2 Ed. note: None of these names can be pinned down on a modern map, with the exception of Catile which is obviously Cateel today. Maluarbuco is sometimes transcribed Malnarbuco, even Malucobuco.

3 Ed. note: Was this the same king who visited the Florida, whose name is reported as Catemao above?

some time at the island of Pojanés, it left it and was shipwrecked upon some coast whose location he could not learn. He also said that where they were made prisoners, Bachelor Tarragona had taken the sun's elevation at 8° latitude N.

Sebastián de Puerta added that during the first year of his bondage [i.e. 1527], his master took him along by canoe to trade at Cebu, from whose natives he learned that five years earlier [i.e. 1522], they had sold to some Chinese in exchange for a few metal pans all the Spaniards from Magellan's fleet whom the Indians had grabbed there, and they were as many as 8 of them [left alive].

In the province of Maluarbucu, which is in the eastern part of that island of Bizaya, he had found an Indian, a native of the **Ladrone Islands**, from whom he learned that a nao had arrived at those islands and had anchored, that 11 of the natives had gone aboard but the ship captain had not let them go, but rather brought them with him all the way to this island of Bizaya, where he anchored inside a bay in the province of Duacatán, where there is a small river flowing in, and whose entrance had one small island. While the nao was staying there, all the 11 Indians had fled from it and gone ashore. Later on, he met another one of those Indians from the group of 11, and he added [the information] that the nao was big and that there was one negro woman aboard named Maria, who had one infant son, and that the said nao had set sail to follow the coast of this island of Bizaya. From all this information, it was deduced that the ship in question was the nao [Santa María de la Victoria] commanded by Loaysa, because the others would not have carried a negro woman.

From the same man, Saavedra learned that in the island where they were, there were no spices whatever, except a wild kind of cinnamon which was of the same type as the one whose sample branches he had been given earlier; that the natives worship idols, and that at certain times they sacrificed men to an idol called Amito¹ to whom they made offerings of food and drink; that the houses of those natives are built near the coast to take advantage of the sea, and that they go on trading voyages to other islands; that they move their villages like the Arabs move their camps from one place to another; that there were many wild pigs in this island; there was gold. He also said that some traders come from China to trade through the islands. Finally, these natives weave a beautiful type of fine jacket that they make with the bark of some trees which they called *pilay*.² They go and trade for rice and other things, specially to Cebu and to other islands that are near it and are called Sol [Jolo?].

Saavedra sailed to go to the Moluccas, coasting that same island where they were, and he went to two other islands nearby, one of which is called Candigar and the other Sarragan [Sarangani]. There, some canoes came out with various Indians who brought along two naked Christians, with their hands tied behind their backs; the latter, as they got near the ship, saluted the captain. The captain asked them who they were, and they

1 Ed. note: Obviously this should be written Anito, but this was a word used for any ghost or spirit.

2 Ed. note: There are many possibilities here. Could this be *palay*, the word for the rice plant? Could it be *piña*, the Spanish word for pineapple, whose fibers are used in the Philippines to make a fine cloth? Could this be a local word for pandanus?

answered that they were from the fleet of Commander Loaysa and from the caravel **Par-ral**, commanded by Captain Jorge Manrique, and they begged him for God's sake to rescue them. The captain told them not to make a move, that he would buy them, even if it cost him everything aboard the ship, as long as they did not ask for the ship itself. He also asked them to speak with the lords of that island, to say that he had come in the name of His Majesty to trade with them, to make peace and friendship as with brothers, and that they should bring out something to eat.

Those men went ashore, spoke with the lord of the island, and came back to make peace with the captain in the local manner. Those men had been in fact the king's interpreters; the friendship ceremony took place between the captain and the king himself, each one taking a bit a blood from his arm into a glass cup, where they added a little water. The king of the island drank the blood, etc.

...

Second return voyage of 1529, narrated by Saavedra

I left Tidore the first time on the evening of the eve of Corpus Christi [1528] and returned on Friday afternoon ... of what was the 12th of June 1528.¹

On Saturday morning, I went into the port of Gilolo. On this day, the fetters were removed from Benito Fernández, and the large flags were raised. I gave this day 7 ducats per month to everyone.

I departed Tidore on Monday night of the 3rd of May of the year 1529. Pedro de Montemayor came out with me with four proas and accompanied me as far as Tribuobe and he stayed there. I made sail heading E with a good wind from the SW.

I arrived at the island of Paine on Thursday noon of what was on the calendar the 24th of the month of June, St. John the Baptist's Day. It took me 50 days to cover the 200 leagues from Tidore to this island; out of that I also had 43 days of calm weather. I remained anchored at the island of Paine the whole of the month of July.

I made sail from this port on Sunday afternoon on the 1st day of August of the said year. I sailed until the 15th of August, the day of Our Lady [of Assumption], when I arrived at Big Urais Island which is at 1° 40' S of the line, where I anchored on Sunday night. Between the island of Paine and this one, there could be, I say, 140 leagues.

From here, I made sail on Tuesday noon and ran for 17 leagues.

From here, I made sail on Wednesday 17 August. At this island I have mentioned, I had news that there was clove in it from a native born there who had been with me for a year. This man was telling me that there was clove there, but that the natives did not eat it. Above this island, I tacked for two days and was unable to make any headway eastward. On Sunday, which was figured out as the 23rd of August, I turned back here to go by way of the Cape of Good Hope. I was waiting and coasting the said island going west, but could not round its western cape because the wind jumped to NW.

1 Ed. note: Navarrete mentions that the manuscript was so illegible that he was unable to decipher the text of the first return voyage.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, I got a favorable wind and, trying to round the western cape, I failed.

On Thursday next, I again turned back to make my way east with good breezes from the NW and NNE and SSW.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, which was the 29th of the said month, when we took the direction of New Spain, we made 26 leagues during these three days.

On Monday next, we were becalmed and made no headway, until noon when the wind began to blow.

Tuesday next, I made 20 leagues to the NE, N and then E, with the wind from the SSW and SW.

Wednesday, 1st day of September of the said year, they took the sun: we were in 40' north of the line, and made 10 leagues NW 1/4 W with the wind S, SW, SSW and calm.

Thursday next, we had the sails down with showers; we made no headway, it was calm.

Friday next, I ran N 1/4 NE and to NNE 12 leagues with the wind from ESE and E.

Saturday, figured as the 4th of September, we ran N 1/4 NW and NE with the wind from SW and ESE for 6 leagues.

Sunday next, we got very little wind; on this day, we almost did not move. On Sunday night, there was a little wind; we headed NW until Monday and made 12 leagues.

Between Monday last and Tuesday next at noon, I made 18 leagues NE with the wind NW and SW.

Between Tuesday noon and Wednesday noon, which was on the 8th of September, the feast day of [the Nativity of] Our Lady, we made 18 leagues toward the NW with the wind SSW.¹

Between Wednesday noon and Thursday following at noon, I sailed with a S and SW wind mixed with showers toward the N.

Between Thursday noon and Friday noon, which was the 11th of September, I made 40 leagues heading N 1/4 NE with the wind from NNW and SW.

Between Friday noon and Saturday noon, we ran 36 leagues NE 1/4 E with the wind SSW.

Between Saturday noon and Sunday noon, which was the 12nd of September, we ran 45 leagues to the ENE with the wind SW and W.

Monday 13 September, we made 50 leagues to NE with the wind W and SW.

Tuesday 14 September, we made 30 leagues toward the NE. On this day, we came to an **island** which is 6° on the north side of the line; it appeared that the ship had drifted a longitude of 100 leagues toward the east, because this island is at 700 leagues from the Moluccas [along a line] bearing E and slighty NE.

Wednesday 15 September, we were becalmed near this island.

Thursday 16 September, we were also becalmed and hardly moved.

Friday 17 September, we made 12 leagues toward the NE 1/4 E with the wind SW; the island still bore W 12 leagues.

1 Ed. note: Why didn't he head NE? This is probably a transcription error.

Saturday 18 September, we made headway toward the N, to NNE and to SE, resulting in a run of 18 leagues NE.

Sunday, which was figured out as the 19th September, we ran 13 leagues with showers to the NE; the wind was ESE.

Monday 20 September, we ran 20 leagues NE 1/4 E with the wind SW.

Tuesday 21 September, we ran 10 leagues to the WNW with the wind SSE; we were becalmed near **3 low islets**.

Wednesday 22 September, we were becalmed. We were in 9°30' N of the line.

Thursday 23 September, we made 12 leagues to the N with calm weather.

Friday 24 September, we headed ENE and E for 18 leagues with the wind N and NNW with showers.

Saturday 25 September, we made 12 leagues ENE, E and then SE; that resulted in an [equivalent] run to SSE. We remained the whole night with lowered sails with showers.

Sunday 26 September, we were becalmed; we hardly moved.

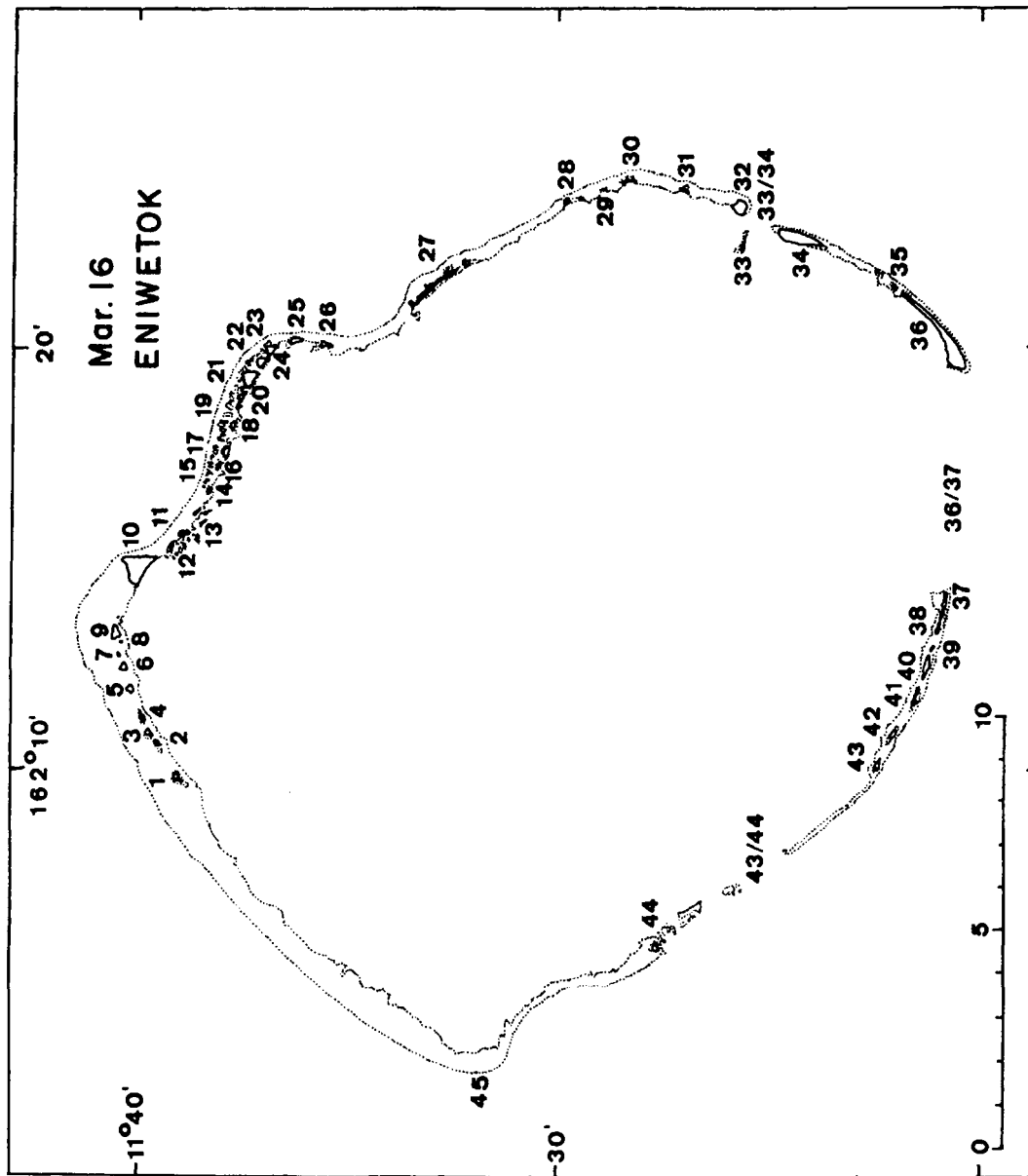
Monday 27 September, we headed ENE, then NE, N, and even W, for 10 leagues.

Tuesday 28 September, we headed N 1/4 NE, also ENE, and NE 1/4 N, for a run to NE 13 leagues.

Wednesday 29 September, St. Michael's Day, we were becalmed and made no headway.

Thursday 30 September, we got varying winds and calm, and made little headway on this day, and came up to **3 low islands** that are in 11°30' on the north side of the line, and I anchored at them.¹

¹ Ed. note: The log ends abruptly here. Saavedra was sick and spent a few days to recover at this atoll which was probably Eniwetok. However, he was not cured because he died soon after they left the Marshall Islands, still heading NE when they could and trying to make it to New Spain.



Map of Eniwetok discovered by Saavedra on 30 September 1529. He rested here for 8 days as he was very sick. However, he died soon after leaving the atoll. (From Bryan's Place Names)