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## Document 1521D

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# Magellan's voyage—Primary account by a Genoese pilot

*Sources: From four extant manuscripts<sup>1</sup> in Portuguese, one is now in the National Library in Lisbon<sup>2</sup>, one in the Royal Academy of History in Madrid, one in the National Library in Paris, and one in private hands.<sup>3</sup> First published in 1825 by the Lisbon Academy of Sciences in *Notícias para a história e geografia das navegações ultramarinas, IV & VI*, it was also published in 1831 by António Nunes de Carvalho, as *O roteiro da viagem de Fernão de Magalhães*. The following English translation is from Lord Stanley of Alderley's *First Voyage around the World* (Haklyut Society, 1874).*

...That outlet and the entrance [of Magellan Strait] are in 52 degrees latitude [S]. They made a stay in this strait from the 21st of October to the 26th of November, which makes 36 days of the said year of 1520, and as soon as they went out of the strait to sea, they made their course, for the most part, to WNW, when they found that their needles varied to the NW almost two-quarters<sup>4</sup>, and after they had navigated thus for many days, they found an island<sup>5</sup> in a little more or less than 18°, or 19°, and also another<sup>6</sup> which was in 13° to 14°, and this is in south latitude; they are uninhabited.<sup>7</sup> They ran on until they reached the line, when Fernão de Magalhães said that now they were in

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1 This unnamed Genoese pilot with the Magellan Expedition was either Juan Bautista de Poncero or Leon Pancaldo. The original manuscript, which had been written in Italian, was seized by the Portuguese Governor of the Moluccas, António de Brito, when the ship *Trinidad* was forced back to the Moluccas in 1522. It was translated loosely into Portuguese by some unknown official and copied a few times.

2 Formerly the Biblioteca de San Francisco de Cidade.

3 Ed. note: According to Max Justo Guedes (p. 469 of Texeira da Mota's *A viagem de Fernão de Magalhães*), in 1972, the owner of the latter manuscript was Sir John Galvin, Loughlinstown House, Dublin, Ireland; before its sale in London in 1957, it had been in the library of the Celestine Convent in Lisbon.

4 Ed. note: Which means that compass variation was 2 points off, i.e. 23 degrees west.

5 Ed. note: San Pablo Island, perhaps Pukapuka today.

6 Ed. note: Tiburones, perhaps Vostok or Flint.

7 Translator's note: The Paris ms. of this account and Pigafetta place these two islands in 15 deg. and 9 deg. South latitude.

the neighborhood of Maluco, as he had information that there were no provisions at Maluco, he said that he would go in a northerly direction as far as 10 or 12 degrees, and they reached to as far as 13° N, and in this latitude they navigated to the W 1/4 SW, a matter of 100 leagues, where on the 6th of March 1521, they fetched **two islands** inhabited by many people, and they anchored at one of them, which is in 12° N. The inhabitants are people of little truth, and they did not take precaution against them until they saw that they were taking away the skiff of the flagship, and they cut the rope with which it was made fast, and took it ashore without their being able to prevent it. They gave this island the name of Thieves' Island.

Fernão de Magalhães seeing that the skiff was lost, set sail, as it was already night, tacking about until the next day. As soon as it was morning they anchored at the place where they had seen the skiff carried off to, and he ordered two boats to be got ready with a matter of 50 or 60 men, and he went ashore in person, and burned the whole village, and they killed seven or eight persons, between men and women, and recovered the skiff, and returned to the ships. While they were there they saw 40 or 50 **parãos**<sup>1</sup>, which came from the same land<sup>2</sup>, and brought much refreshments.<sup>3</sup>

Fernão de Magalhães would not make any further stay, and at once set sail, and ordered the course to be steered W 1/4 SW; and so they made land, which is in barely 11°...

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1 Ed. note: The Portuguese word *parão* came from Asia (*parau* in Malayan), and has given rise to the more common word "proa" in English.

2 Ed. note: No doubt from a different village on Guam.

3 Translator's note: The Paris ms. has "much refreshments of fruit".