
Document 1521C1

Magellan's voyage—Primary account by Francisco Alvo, from his logbook

Sources: The original manuscript of the logbook kept by Francisco Alvo or Albo is located in AGI Seville: Patronato: Simancas 1-2-1/1 n°5 (or 34). It is quoted as Doc. n° 137 in Torres y Lanza's Catalog, in Medina, Vol. I, p. 213, and in Garrigós' Collection as Doc. n° 115. Navarrete has also published it in Vol. IV of his Colección de los viajes, p. 216; he gives the old AGI reference as "Papeles del Maluco, 1519-1547, legajo 1". Juan Bautista Muñoz was one of the first historians who, in 1783, found this manuscript in the Simancas archives; it has since been moved to AGI Seville, and is kept there under modern number: Patronato leg. 34, ramo 5.

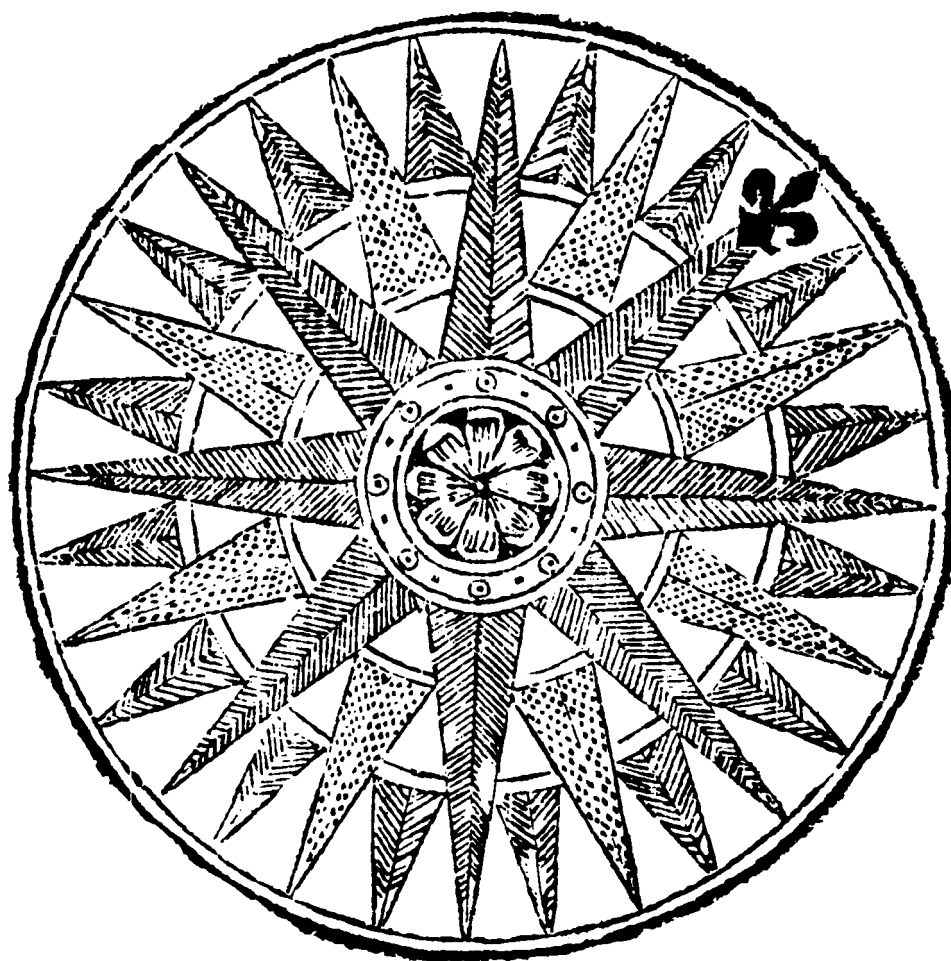
Journal or logbook of Magellan's voyage from Cape St. Augustine in Brazil, up to the return to Spain in the nao Victoria, kept by Francisco Albo

[Crossing of the Pacific]

Coming out of this strait, the coast turns northward and on the left we saw one cape with one island, and we gave it the name of Cape Feroso and Cape Deseado¹, and it is in the same latitude as the Cape of the Virgins, which is the one at the entrance of the strait. From the said Cape Feroso we then went to the NW, and to the N, and to the NNE, and along this course we ran for two days and three nights, and in the morning we saw land, broken up like pinnacles that lie north-south (that is, the general direction of the coast of the south sea) at a distance of about 55 leagues from Cape Feroso and from the two pieces of land to us [there were] about 20 leagues; this land we sighted on the first day of December [1520].

Now I will begin the headings and latitudes of this crossing after this land, and on the first day of December when we were abeam of it, it is in 48 degrees [south].

1 Ed. note: Meaning Cape Beautiful and Cape Desired, at opposite ends of the island in question.

**Winds in the Mediterranean Sea**

Winds	Points	Degrees
<i>Tramontana</i>	N	0°
	N by E	11-1/4
	NNE	22-1/2
	NE by N	33-3/4
<i>Griego or Greco</i>	NE	45
	NE by E	56-1/4
	ENE	67-1/2
	E by N	78-3/4
<i>Levante</i>	E	90
	E by S	101-1/4
	ESE	112-1/2
	SE by E	123-3/4
<i>Siroco or Jaloque</i>	SE	135
	SE by S	146-1/4
	SSE	157-1/2
	S by E	168-3/4

and Points of the Compass Card.

Winds	Points	Degrees
<i>Austro or Noto</i>	S	180
	S by W	191-1/4
	SSW	202-1/2
	SW by S	213-3/4
<i>Garbino or Lebeche</i>	SW	225
	SW by W	236-1/4
	WSW	247-1/2
	W by S	258-3/4
<i>Poniente</i>	W	270
	W by N	281-1/4
	WNW	292-1/2
	NW by W	303-3/4
<i>Maestral</i>	NW	315
	NW by N	326-1/4
	NNW	337-1/2
	N by W	348-3/4

[1520] December.

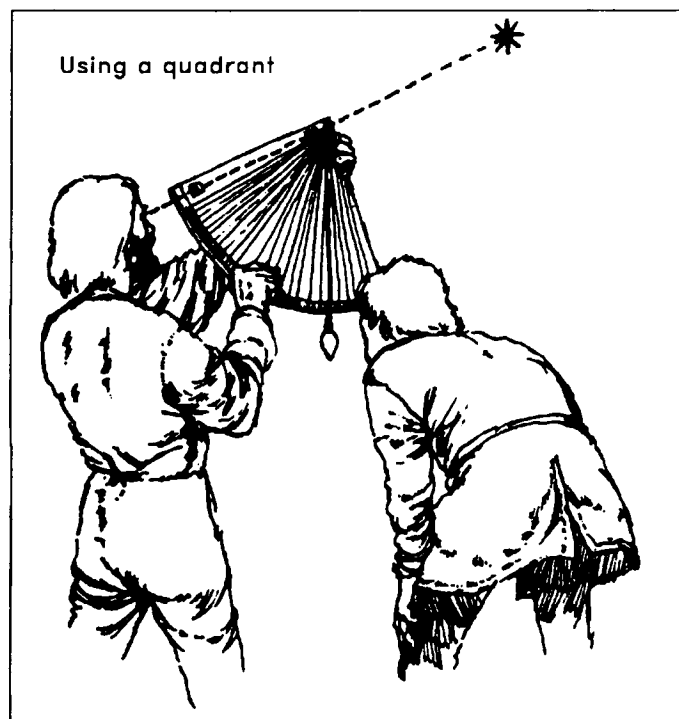
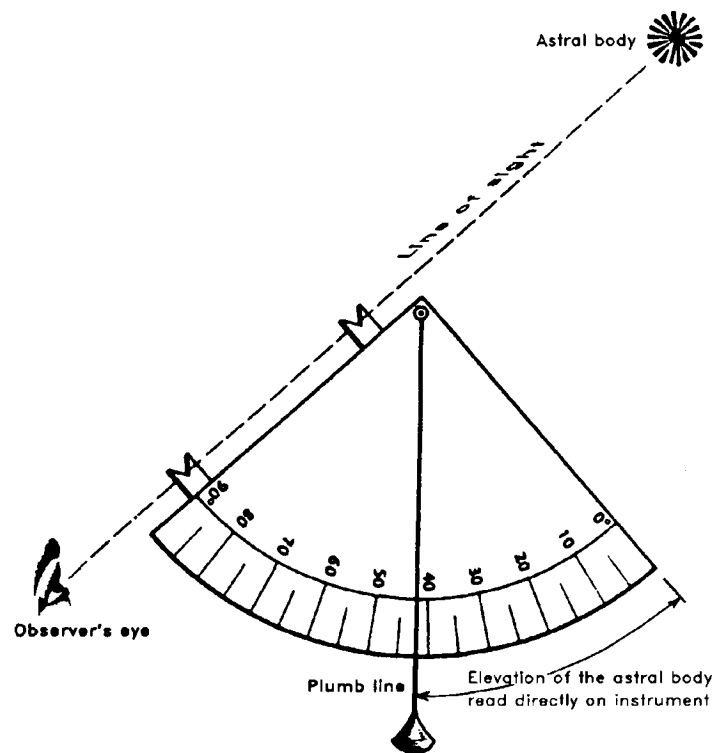
For the first 2 days of December, we did not take the [elevation of the] sun, but we went NNE, and we were in 47-1/4 degrees and on this day we found ourselves as much as [before as] this whole land is at the same latitude.¹

On the 3rd we went to the NW and found ourselves	in 46° 30'.
On the 4th [of the said month] to NW,	in 45-1/2
" 5th to N 1/4 NW [= N by W],	in 44-1/4
" 6th to NE 1/4 E [=NE by E],	in 44
" 7th to NE 1/4 E,	in 43-2/3
" 8th to NE 1/4 N,	in 43-1/4
" 9th to NNE,	in 42-2/3
" 10th to NE 1/4 E,	in 42°12'
" 11th to NE 1/4 E,	in 41-2/3
" 12th to NE 1/4 E,	in 41-1/4
" 13th to NE 1/4 N,	in 40
" 14th of the said month, to N,	in 38-3/4
" 15th to N 1/4 NE,	in 38
" 16th to N 1/4 NE,	in 36-1/2
" 17th to NW 1/4 N,	in 34-1/2
" 18th to N 1/4 NW,	in 33-1/2
" 19th to NW,	in 32-3/4
" 20th of the said month, to NW,	in 31-3/4
" 21st to NW,	in 30-2/3
" 22nd to W 1/4 SW,	in 30-2/3
" 23rd of the said month, to WNW,	in 30
" 24th to WNW,	in 29-3/4
" 25th to WNW,	in 29-1/2
" 26th to NW 1/4 W,	in 28-3/4
" 27th to NW 1/4 W,	in 27-2/3
" 28th to NW 1/4 W,	in 26-2/3
" 29th of the said month, to WNW,	in 26-1/3
" 30th to W,	12 leagues
" 31st to NW,	in 25-1/2.

1521. January.

On the 1st of the said month, to W 1/4 NW,	in 25°
" 2nd of the said month, to WNW,	in 24
" 3rd to NW 1/4 W,	in 23-1/2
" 4th to WNW,	in 22

¹ Ed. note: The ambiguity occurs in the original text as well. It seems to them as if they had not made any headway, as the land features on their starboard side looked the same.



"	5th	to W 1/4 SW,	in 23
"	6th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 22
"	7th	to W,	25 leagues
"	8th	to W,	23 leagues
"	9th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 22-1/4
"	10th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 22
"	11th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 21-3/4
"	12th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 21-1/3
"	13th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 21
"	14th	to NW 1/4 W,	in 20-1/2
"	15th	to WNW,	in 19-1/2
"	16th	to WNW,	in 19
"	17th	to WNW,	in 18-1/4
"	18th	to WNW,	in 17-1/2
"	19th	to NW 1/4 W,	in 16-1/4
"	20th	to NW 1/4 W,	in 15
"	21st	to SW,	in 15-2/3
"	22nd	to SW,	in 16-3/4
"	23rd	to W 1/4 NW,	in 16-1/2
"	24th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 16-1/4.

And in this neighborhood we found an islet with trees on it. It is uninhabited; and we took soundings at it, and found no bottom, and so we went on our course. We called this islet **San Pablo**, having discovered it on the day of his conversion¹, and it is 9(?) leagues(?) from that of Tiburones.²

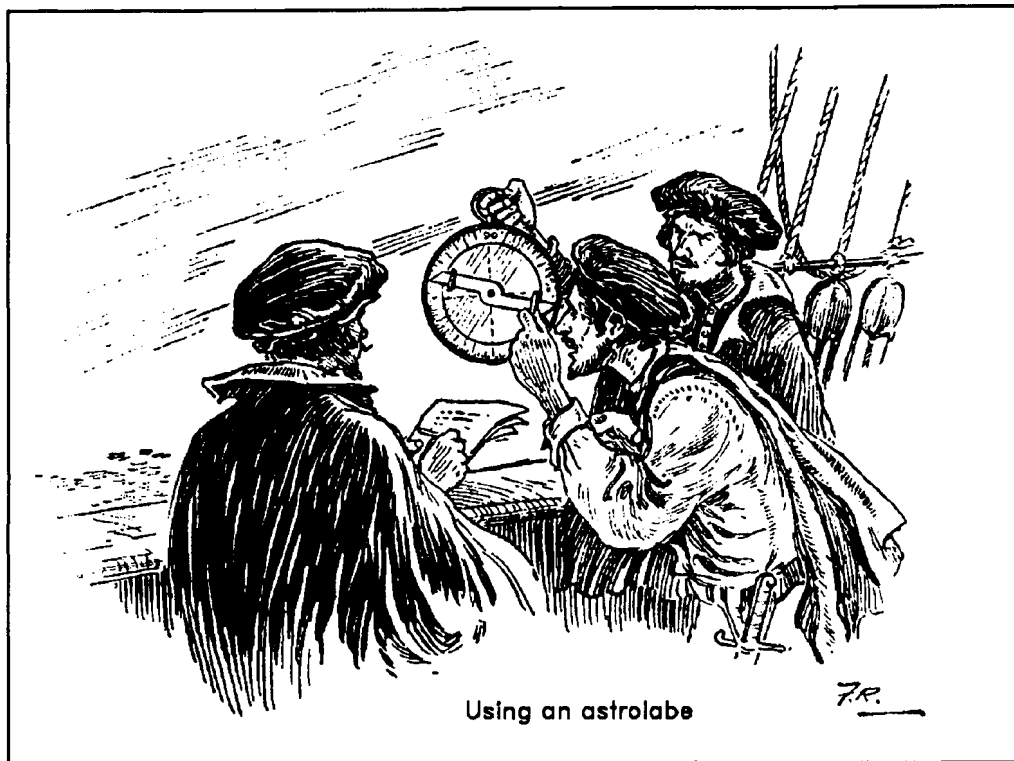
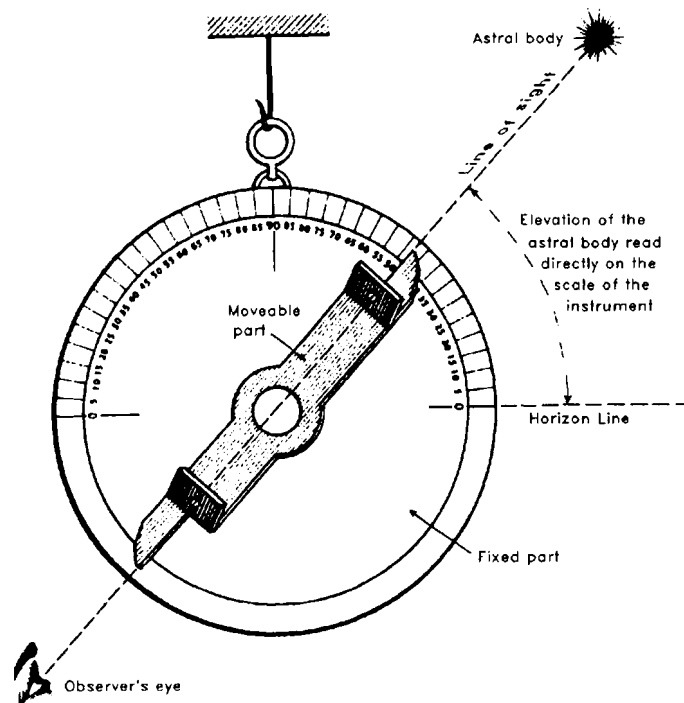
On the 25th of the said month,	to NW 1/4 W,	in 15-3/4°
" 26th	to NW 1/4 W,	in 15-1/3
" 27th	to NW 1/4 W,	in 15
" 28th	to WNW,	in 14-1/2
" 29th	to WNW,	in 13-3/4
" 30th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 13-1/2
" 31st	to W 1/4 NW,	in 13-1/3

February.

On the 1st day of February	to NW,	in 13
" 2nd	to NW,	in 12-1/2

1 Ed. note: The conversion of St. Paul is celebrated on January 25.

2 Ed. note: Obviously, these last 8 words were added later. Some copies of the manuscript, such as the one in the British Museum, say "9 leagues", but this is obviously an error. Navarrate says "9 degrees", but this must be in longitude, because the difference in latitudes is about 6 degrees. See Doc. 1521C2 for further discussion.



"	3rd	to NW,	in 11-3/4
"	4th	to NW,	in 11-3/4

In this latitude we found an uninhabited island, where we caught many sharks, and therefore we gave it the name of **Tiburones** [or Shark] Island, and it is in relation with the Strait NW and SE, 1/4 E and W¹ and it is in 10-2/3° latitude S, and is distant [blank] leagues from the Ladrone Islands.

On the 5th February,	to NW,	in 10°
" 6th	to NW,	in 9-1/4
" 7th	to NW,	in 8-2/3
" 8th	to NW,	in 7-2/3
" 9th	to NW 1/4 W,	in 6-1/2
" 10th	to NW,	in 5
" 11th	to NW,	in 2-1/2
" 12th	to NW,	in 1
" 13th	to NW, in 30' on the side of the line where we find ourselves, [i.e. N].	
" 14th	to NW,	in 1°
" 15th	to NW,	in 1-3/4
" 16th	to WNW,	in 2-1/2
" 17th	to WNW,	in 3-1/2
" 18th	to WNW,	in 5
" 19th	to WNW,	in 5-3/4
" 20th	to WNW,	in 6-1/2
" 21st	to WNW,	in 8
" 22nd	to WNW,	in 9-1/2
" 23rd	to WNW,	in 11-1/2
" 24th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 12
" 25th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 12-1/3
" 26th	to W,	in 12
" 27th	to W,	in 12
" 28th	to W 1/4 NW,	in 13.

March, 1521.

On the 1st day of March,	to W,	in 13
" 2nd	to W,	in 13
" 3rd	to W,	in 13
" 4th	to W,	in 13
" 5th	to W,	in 13
" 6th	to W,	in 13.

¹ Ed. note: Which means lying on a line NW by W—SE by E or at an angle of 123°3/4 clockwise from magnetic north.



On this day we saw land, and went to it, and there were two islands¹, which were not very large; and when we were between them, we turned to the SW, and left one² to the NW, and then we saw many small sails coming to us, and they ran so fast that they seemed to fly, and they had mat sails triangular in shape, and they ran both ways, for they made of the poop the prow, and of the prow the poop, when they wished, and they came many times to us and sought us to steal as much as they could; and so they stole the skiff of the flagship, and on the next day we recovered it; and there I took the sun, and this one island is in 12-2/3°, and the other in over 13°. ³ This island in 12° is with that of Tiburones WNW—ESE⁴, and we passed 20 leagues off the northern part. From the island in 12° we sailed on the 9th of March, in the morning, and went W 1/4 SW [i.e. west by south].

The Ladrone Islands are 300 leagues from Gilolo.⁵

(Facing page) **The bay at Umatac, Guam, where tradition says that Magellan landed on 8 March 1521 to recover his skiff that had been stolen by the natives. He burned over 40 houses and killed at least 7 men with crossbows and musket fire. However, the landing site could have been at other bays and villages up the coast, north of Umatac and south of Orote Point, quite possibly at what was then the most populated place, Fuña or Fuñai, where old Agat used to be located. (Photo by Burris Studio, Agaña, ca. 1959. Courtesy of Domingo Abella)**

(Overleaf) **Monument to Magellan on the beach at Umatac, Guam. It was erected by the Guam Teachers' Association and inaugurated on 6 March 1926. (Photo by Burris Studio, Agaña, ca. 1959. Courtesy of Domingo Abella)**

1 Ed. note: Rota and Guam.

2 Ed. note: Rota.

3 Ed. note: The southern part of Guam is actually in 13° and Rota is in 14°, so that Alvo's latitudes are well within the 1° of error which was a usual occurrence for expert pilots ashore in those days.

4 Ed. note: Which is to say that a line running from Guam back to Tiburones [Vostok or Flint] lies 112-1/2° from north.

5 Ed. note: Gilolo, or Gialolo, was then the name for the greater part of Halmahera Island in the Moluccas. A strait to the east of that island is still called Selat [meaning Strait in Indonesian] Djailolo.

