

Queen Elizabeth's 16th century Portolan chart eliminates California as Sir Francis Drake's landing site.

BY

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(June - 2015) The material presented here is a short selection of the author's upcoming book: *The Drake Question, How California Stole Oregon's History*. Final editing has not been completed.

Abstract: The Hakluyt Society (founded in 1846) is the premier English historical society when it comes to the Age of Discovery. Its 2 volume *Hakluyt Handbook* is a comprehensive guide, first proposed by Dr. R. A. Skelton and Professor D. B. Quinn, consisting of materials and the sources of Richard Hakluyt's nearly 300 volumes of primary records regarding the Age of Discovery voyages, travels and other geographical material. In the early 1960's the Council of the Society set up a committee to work on the project and began enlisting contributors for the guide. After years of hard work by its members, *The Hakluyt Handbook* was completed and finally published in 1974. The Handbook Preface by C. F. Beckingham, Hakluyt Society President, stated that there had never been a comprehensive study of Rickard Hakluyt's works along with the background of his sources. Beckingham's hope was that the correlation between overlapping disciplines of the handbook be used by various scholars would give rise to further study. This is one such study.

Resumen: La Sociedad Hakluyt (fundada en 1846) es el primer ministro Inglés sociedad histórica cuando se trata de la era de los descubrimientos. Su Manual Hakluyt es una guía completa, primero propuesto por el Dr. RA Skelton y Profesor DB Quinn, que consiste en materiales y las fuentes de cerca de 300 volúmenes de Richard Hakluyt de registros primarios con respecto a la era de los viajes de descubrimiento, viaje y otro material geográfica. A principios de la década de 1960 el Consejo de la Sociedad estableció un comité para trabajar en el proyecto y comenzó a reclutar colaboradores para la guía. Después de años de duro trabajo de sus miembros, el Manual Hakluyt se completó y publicó finalmente en 1974. El Manual Prefacio de CF Beckingham, Hakluyt Presidente Sociedad declaró que nunca había habido un amplio estudio de las obras de Rickard Hakluyt junto con el fondo de sus fuentes. La esperanza de Beckingham era que la correlación entre las disciplinas se solapan del manual utilizado por diversos estudiosos daría lugar a un mayor estudio. Este es uno de tales estudios.

The Edward Wright 1599 World Portolan Chart (Fig. 1) carries Queen Elizabeth's Privy Seal ¹, the only map known to carry the official seal during the 16th century, has recently come to light by the essays of British scholars, David Beers Quinn and Helen Wallis.² The first world chart meant to be used for navigation was originally published by English historian, Reverend Richard Hakluyt (1552-1616), in *Principal Navigations* (1599).³ The chart laid dormant and unrecognized for its historical significance in identifying Francis Drake's Pacific coast landing until it reappeared in 1974 as a the only folio chart in the *Hakluyt Handbook* edited by David Beers Quinn.

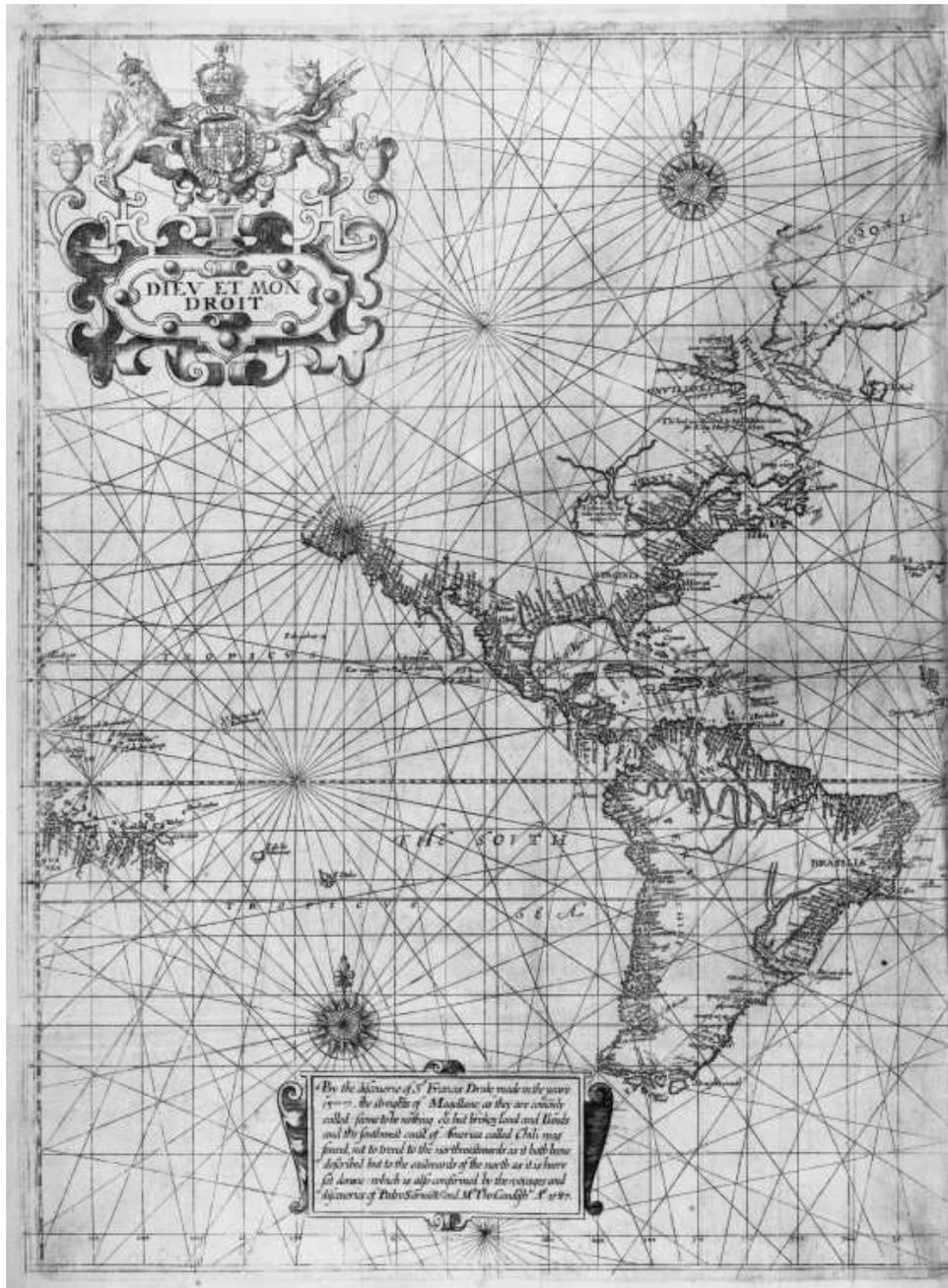


Fig 1. Western half of the Edward Wright Navigation Chart of (1599-1600).
(Eastern hemisphere not shown)

The center cartouche was added to the 2nd printing reads:

By the discovery of Sir Francis Drake made in the year 1577 the straights of Magellan as they are commonly called seem to be nothing else but broken land and islands and the southwest coast of America called Chile may be found not to trend to the northwestward as it has been described but to the eastwards of the north with as it is here set down: which is also confirmed by voyages and discoveries of Pedro Sarmiento and Mr. Thomas Cavendish in 1587.

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Thomas Dekker's 1609 *The Guls Hornbook* was the first to recognize Wright for his exacting usefulness of extracting a round globe into a flat projection. He described Wright as an excellent mathematical

workman, who had helped the first English globe maker, Emery Molyneux (born 16th century and died June 1598), with the mathematical scale for his 1592 world globes. Dekker acknowledged Wright for his groundbreaking achievement of casting the Globe into a new mold by not making it with a round face but to make it “in *Plano* with all the ancient circles, lines, parallels and figures.” Wright had gained his navigational knowledge of global positioning in a 1589 voyage to the Azores with the Earl of Cumberland. At the request of Queen Elizabeth, he was to develop the first English charts for English sailors to use for open-sea navigation. Up until this time England had been relying on Spanish and Portuguese charts which were not always accurate. (See Fig. 2)

A few years after working with Emery Molyneux, Wright published *Certaine Errors in Navigation* (1599), the first mathematical explanation of Gerardus Mercator’s projection; a method of representing the round earth on a flat plain for use in navigation in which he noted in his Preface about Mercator’s secret method: “But the way how this should be done, I learned neither of Mercator, nor of any man else. And in that point I wish I had been as wise as he in keeping it more charily to myself.”

Albert Hastings Markham, Captain R.N described the Wright chart as the rare “*Hydrographical Description*” bound with the *magnum opus* of Richard Hakluyt, 16th century English Age of Discovery historian. Henry Halman’s *Introduction to the Literature of Europe in the 15th, 16th and 17th Centuries* (1837) describes Wright’s chart as; “The best map of the sixteenth century.”⁴ Sir Charles Henry Coote goes even further with; “Respecting this map, more particularly in referencte to the period at which the original was produced, serves to show that it has claims upon our attention beyond those suggested by Hallman. It is the “new map” referred by Shakespeare in the *Twelfth Night*, Act III, Scene 2. The play is believed to have been performed in February 1601 or 1602 at the Hall of the Middle Temple, Cambridge; Richard Hakluyt’s center of operations.”⁵

Helen Wallis, Map Curator of the British Library from 1967 to 1987, provided writing assistance to the *Hakluyt Handbook* with her article *Edward Wright and the 1599 World Map* in which she stated; “Mainly in light of new evidence available over the last thirty years. That Wright was responsible for its construction admits of little doubt. The map by far is the most original of all [Richard] Hakluyt’s maps and one of the most authoritative of its day.” David Quinn felt that Wright’s name was left off the map for at the time the Queen’s ‘pain of death’ was still in effect for releasing any information about Drake’s famous voyage.

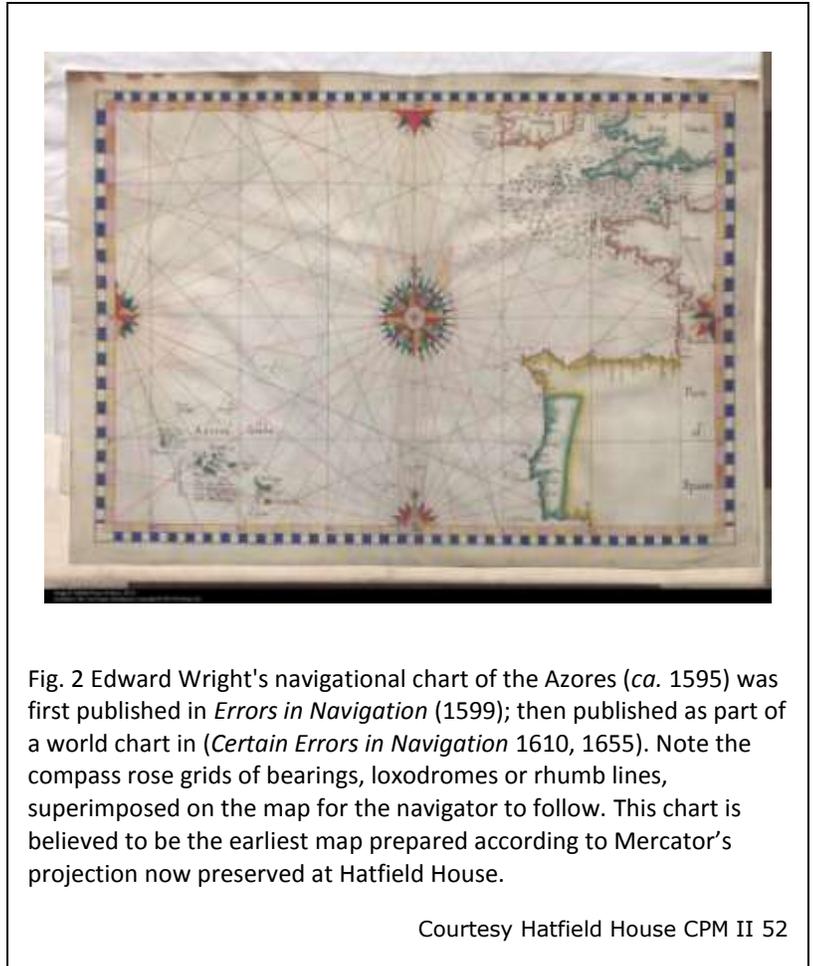


Fig. 2 Edward Wright's navigational chart of the Azores (ca. 1595) was first published in *Errors in Navigation* (1599); then published as part of a world chart in (*Certain Errors in Navigation* 1610, 1655). Note the compass rose grids of bearings, loxodromes or rhumb lines, superimposed on the map for the navigator to follow. This chart is believed to be the earliest map prepared according to Mercator’s projection now preserved at Hatfield House.

Courtesy Hatfield House CPM II 52

Wallis pointed out that the chart was noteworthy in showing only discovered coasts. The below Africa (not shown here) reads: *A true hydrographical description of so much of the world as hath been hitherto discovered and is come to our knowledge*". She also pointed out that Wright acknowledged that; "The map is a demonstration of the *known* land and sea, as revealed by actual voyages of discovery. It contained no armchair flights of fancy or theoretical conjectures about the unknown." A case in point: Wright did not show a continent of Antarctica, for it had not yet been discovered; unlike many 16th century contemporary map makers who routinely inserted hypothetical seas, islands or continents to fill in the spaces.

The cartouche seen below South America was added in the 1599-1600 second printing of *Principal Navigations* highlighting the discoveries made by Drake and Cavendish on their circumnavigations. At the end of the 16th century this was the world's most accurate chart of discovered lands. Although the cartouche makes no mention of Drake's northern whereabouts, it does show Nova Albion between 40 and 48 degrees N latitudes, along with the Queen's personal motto or seal in the upper left hand corner, elevates the chart as authentic evidence in locating Sir Francis Drake's Nova Albion.

The Oregon and California border is at 42 ½ degrees N Latitude which eliminates all California theoretical anchorage sites

below the 40 degree N latitude. Trinidad Bay, Humboldt County, California at 41.05; Chetco River, Curry County, Oregon at 40.04 degrees; Port Orford, Coos County, Oregon at 42.74 degrees; Whale Cove, Lincoln County, Oregon at 44.78 degrees and Nehalem Bay, Tillamook County, Oregon at 45.68 degrees are the only bays within the latitudes of Nova Albion.



William Kip's World Map 1610 printed in Wright's 2nd edition of *Certain Errors*.



The world image above was published by Joseph Moxon in his Atlas of 1655, commonly called the Wright-Molyneux World Map of 1599.
John Carter Brown Library

There has been considerable confusion, which still persists today, in wrongly identifying Molyneux, the famous English celestial globe maker, in connection with 1599 Wright world navigation chart. In the 1610 2nd edition of Wright's *Certain Errors*, the undated map has William Kip notated as the "Sculpfit".

Although these maps resemble the Wright map of 1599 published in Hakluyt's *Principal Navigations*, these 1610 and 1655, Kip and Moxon, so-called Wright-Molyneux maps show California as an Island extending to 40° N latitude and makes no mention of Nova Albion and does not contain the Queen's Privy Seal.

The farthest Spanish landing by this time was Sebastian Cermeño's 1595 shipwreck at 38° N latitude.

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California scholar Henry J. Wagner's *Sir Francis Drake's Voyage Around the World* was the first to incorrectly associate Molyneux with the Edward Wright maps.⁶ It is now known that Molyneux moved to the Netherlands in 1596 or 1597 and died in April 1599 and although the Molyneux terrestrial globe was a valuable source for material in computation, he therefore must be ruled out as being the cartographer.

This map shows that Francis Drake never set foot in what we know today as Drakes Bay, California or any of the other bays below the 40° north latitude. The exclusion of this valuable map by California theorists in trying to identify Drake's North Pacific landing, is just one of the confusing twists and turns, which has hindered the identification of the true landing location, as the chart indicates, being either Whale Cove or Nehalem Bay, Oregon.

End Notes:

1. Garry D. Gitzen, *Edward Wright's 1599 World Chart of 1599*, Terrae Incognitae, Volume 46.1, Maney Publishing, April 2014. The Queen's seal was administered by her secretary, William Cecil, 1st Baron Burghley and held at the Royal Hatfield House Palace; the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth. The present day Hatfield House, a short distance from the old Hatfield Palace, was built in 1611 by Robert Cecil, son of William, who furnished it with lavish art from the Cecil family homes of Burghley House and Theobalds House. The Hatfield House contains the Azores manuscript version of Wright's chart believed to have been drawn c. 1595. The Hatfield House is located in the town of Hatfield, England in the county of Hertfordshire whose coat of arms and flag each contain a stag or hinde. After sailing through the Strait of Magellan into the Pacific Ocean, Francis Drake renamed his command ship from *Pelican* to the *Golden Hinde*. Hertford comes from the Anglo-Saxon *Hertford*, meaning deer crossing a watercourse.
2. *The Hakluyt Handbook*, edited by D. B. Quinn, Hakluyt Society, British Museum, London, 1974. Part one, 7, *Hakluyt's maps*, by R. A. Skelton, with an appendix on 'Edward Wright and the 1599 world map' by Helen Wallis, p 48-73. Part two, 19, *The Pacific* by Helen Wallis, p 223-233 and 21, *North America* by D. B. Quinn, p 244-253.
3. Richard Hakluyt had published a one volume *Principall Navigations, Voyages and Discoveries of the English Nation* in 1589. During the next 10 years he continued to expand his original work into a 2 volume *Principal Navigations...* published in 1599.
4. Albert. Hastings Markham, Captain R.N., F.R.G.S., Editor and Introduction, *The Voyages and Works of John Davis, The Navigator (c. 1550-1605)*, C. H. Coote, *NOTE ON THE "NEW MAP"*, Hakluyt Society, British Museum, London, 1880, pp LXXXVI - LXXXVII.
5. C.H. Coote in *Shakespeare's New Map*, The New Shakespeare Society's Transactions, London, 1878, pp 88-100.
6. Because the Wright world Portolan is undated and it is apparent that when Henry R. Wagner wrote *Sir Francis Drake's Voyage around the World, Its aims and achievements* (1926) he was not aware of the scholarly work being done in England, by Captain Albert H. Markham, Sir Charles Henry Coote and the Shakespeare Society. Wagner naively attributed the map to Molyneux (1600), (p 422), and he said it was from the charts of John Blgrave's *Astrolabium Uranicum Generale* (1596). Blgrave's maps were

reductions from the 1592 Molyneux globes and his *Nova Orbis Terrarum Descriptio* map is a polar drawing which is nothing like Wright's chart using Mercator's projection. It also appears that Wagner was not aware of Edward Wright's involvement with Molyneux in producing the terrestrial globe and Wright's Latin translation for some of the legends.