### Alessandro Zorzi's sketch maps

Luis A. Robles Macías

Brussels Map Circle's Map Afternoon

22 April 2017

#### **Ferrara**. Biblioteca Comunale Ariostea, II.10



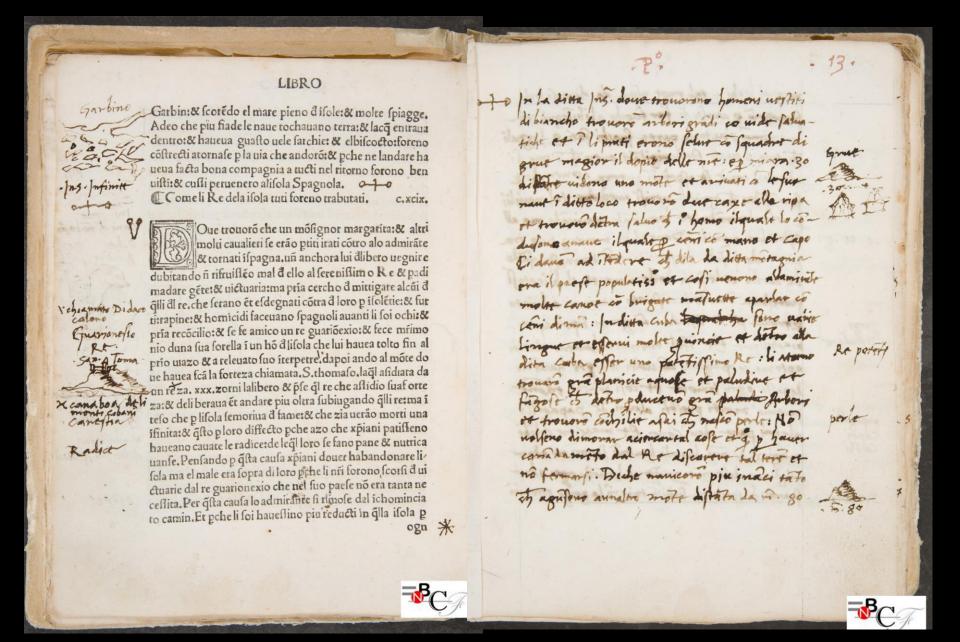
(America)

<u>Documents dated 1501-06</u>

#### Florence. BNCF, Magliabechiano, XIII



The Alberico Codex is a compilation of printed and manuscript news about the New World. It includes many marginalia – from single words to multi-page maps.



Zorzi's drawings show an interest in architecture, ethnography and of course geography. Many drawings of the first part of the codex are also found in the Ferrara manuscript.









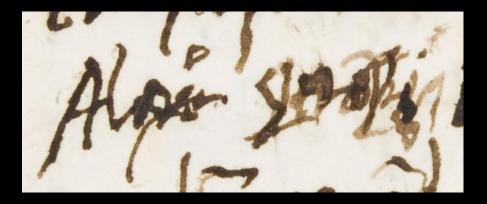








#### But who was Alessandro Zorzi?



Alberico codex, 31v. "Jo Alex[andr]o Zorzi"



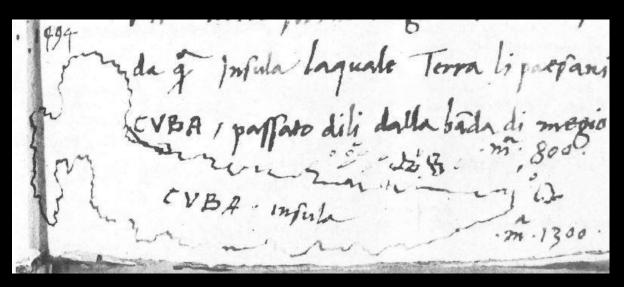
Roberto Almagià, 1936: "a cultivated man"

Laura Laurencich-Minelli, 1985: "a curious man, with a broad but superficial culture"



Perhaps both were right, but describing Zorzi at different ages?

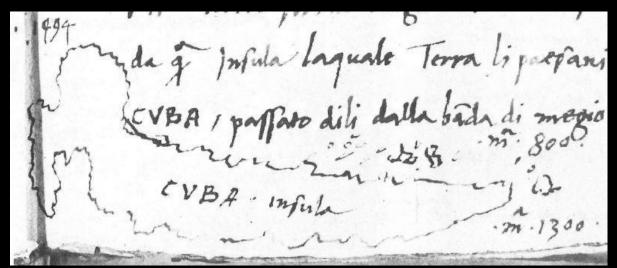
# Map of Cuba



Ferrara manuscript, 19r. A. Trevisano's 1501 letter about Columbus's 2nd voyage

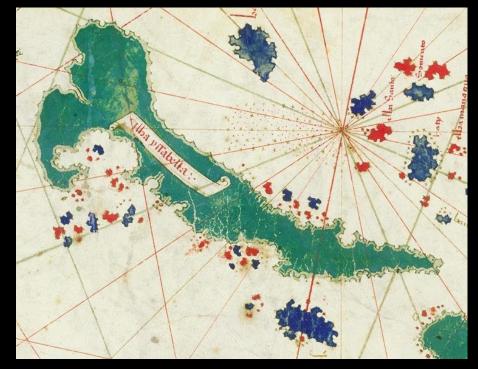


Alberico codex, 10v. Book IV of the Paesi... (1507) about Columbus's 2nd voyage





Cuba in Juan de la Cosa map, 1500.



Cuba (labelled "Yssabella") in Cantino map, 1502.

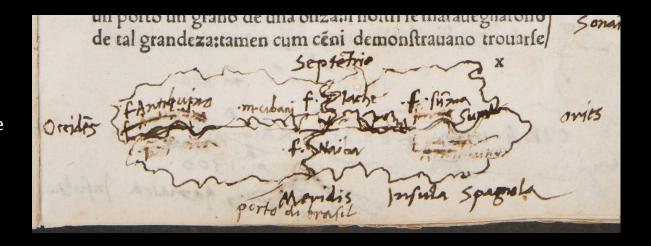
## Map of Hispaniola

Ferrara ms., 17v

A. Trevisano's 1501 letter about Columbus's 2nd voyage (rotated 90° left)



Alberico codex, 10r Book IV of the *Paesi...* (1507) about Columbus's 2nd voyage





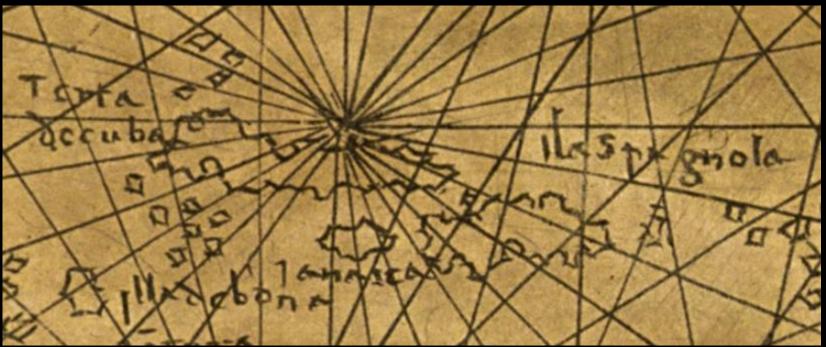


Hispaniola in Juan de la Cosa map, 1500.



Hispaniola in Cantino map, 1502.





Detail of Rosselli map, 1508.

#### Bonus: La Isabela's church

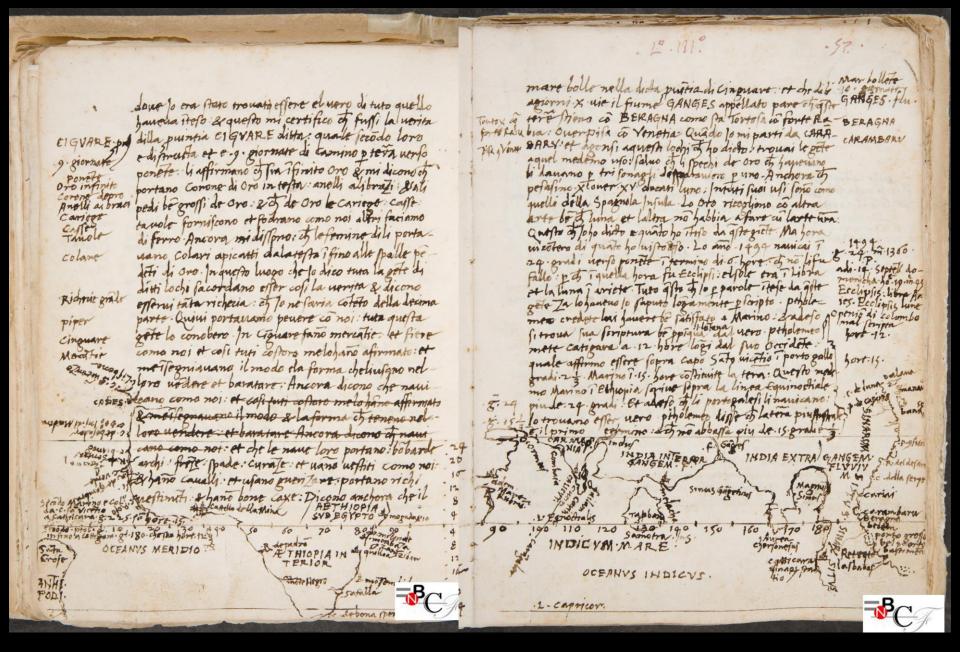


Lo Admirante fece el Cifrone, che è uno loco propinquo ad uno porto, per fabbricarvi una cità. Et incominció a fabricar et far una chiesa...

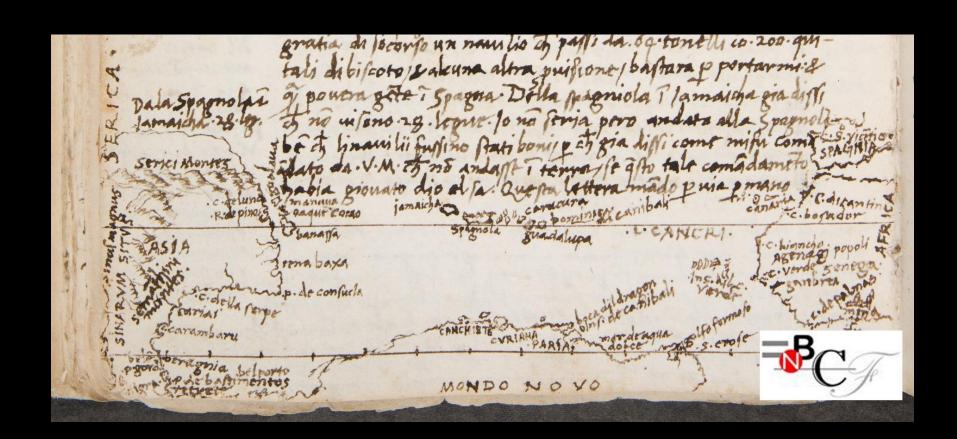
Ferrara manuscript, 16r. A. Trevisano's 1501 letter about Columbus's 2nd voyage

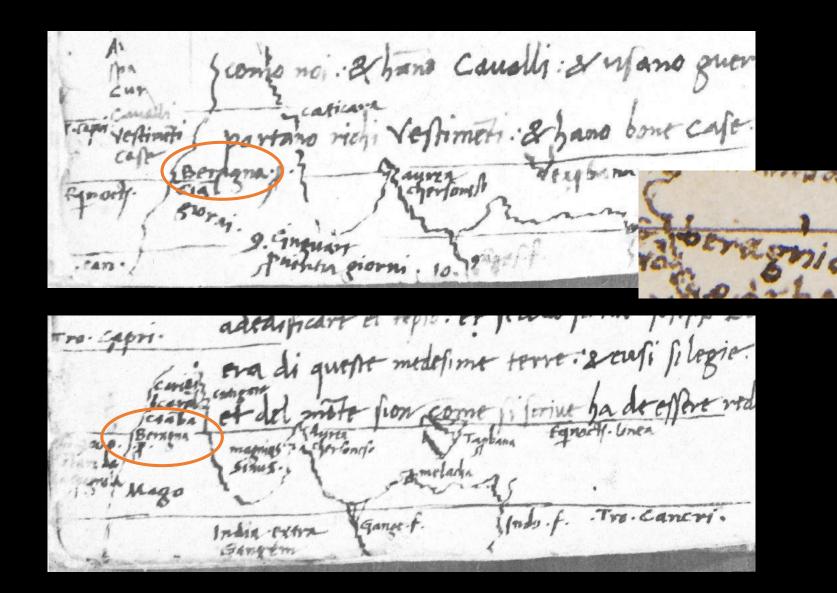
Earliest (and only) depiction of the first Christian church in America, or just Zorzi's imagination?

### Columbus letter's maps

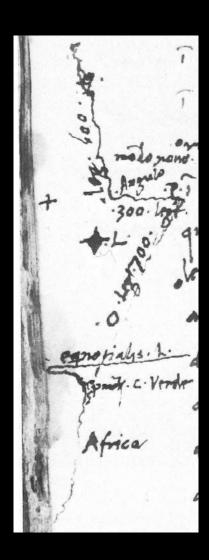


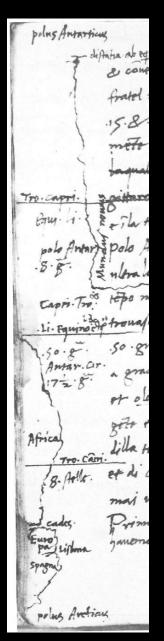
Alberico codex, 56v-57r. Amended translation of Christopher Columbus's July 1503 letter from Jamaica (published Venice, 1505)





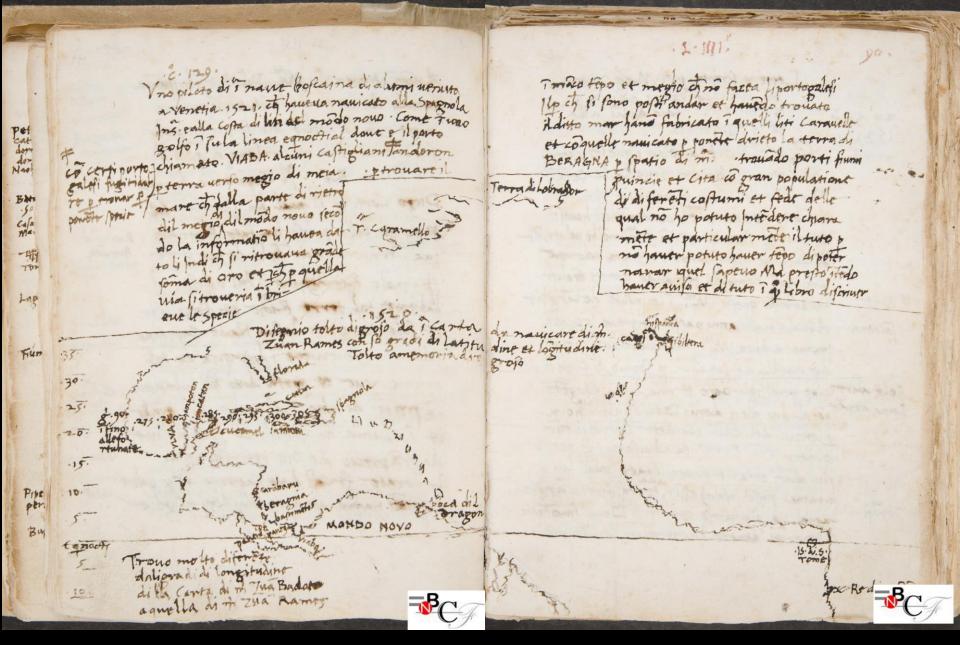
Ferrara ms, 63v and 70v. Amended translation of Christopher Columbus's July 1503 letter from Jamaica (published Venice, 1505)





Ferrara ms, 46v and 47v. Italian translation of *Mundus Novus* (Latin version first published Augsburg, 1504)

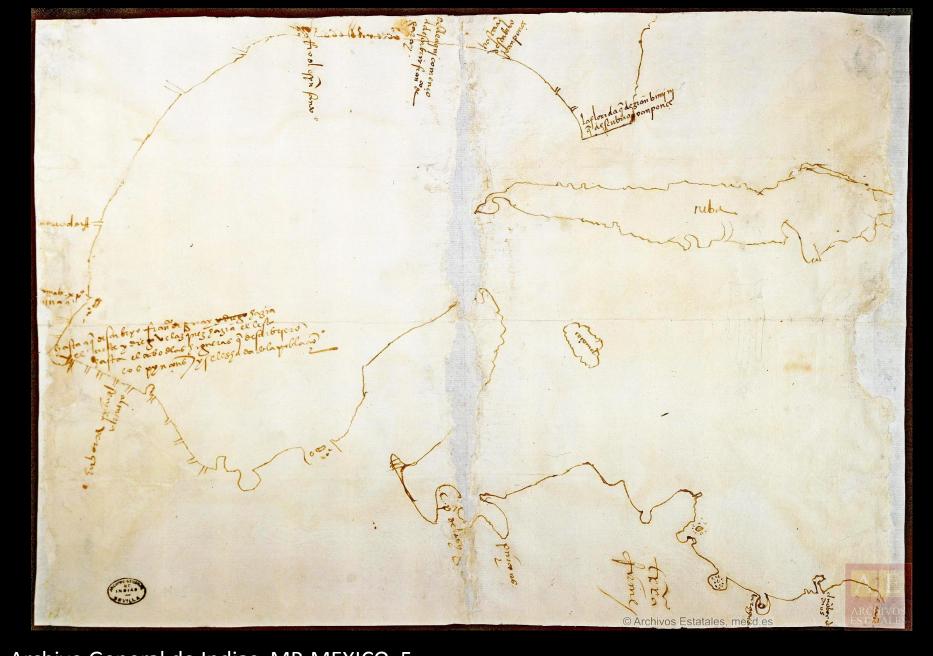
### Zuan Rames's map



Alberico codex, 89v-90r Copy of a letter from Spain to Zuan Rames (undated).



1519 Portuguese planisphere, attributed to Reinel (facsimile at BNF) This Iberian map does not yet show the Gulf of Mexico.



Archivo General de Indias, MP-MEXICO, 5
Earliest extant map showing the entire coastline of the Gulf of Mexico. Attributed to Alonso Álvarez Pineda, ca. 1519.

## Map of Mexico

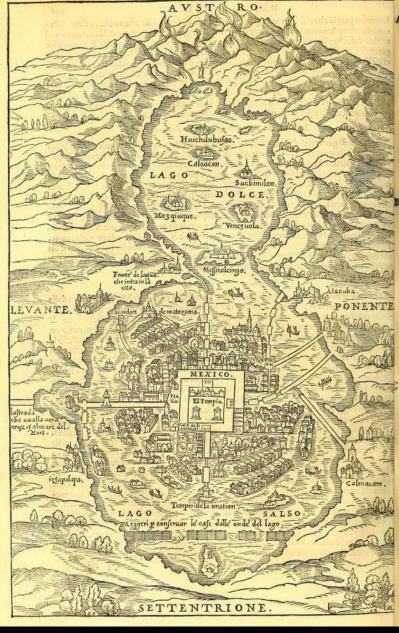




Alberico codex, 126r and 126v Italian translation of Hernán Cortés's second letter from New Spain (1520), published in Latin in Nüremberg in 1524.







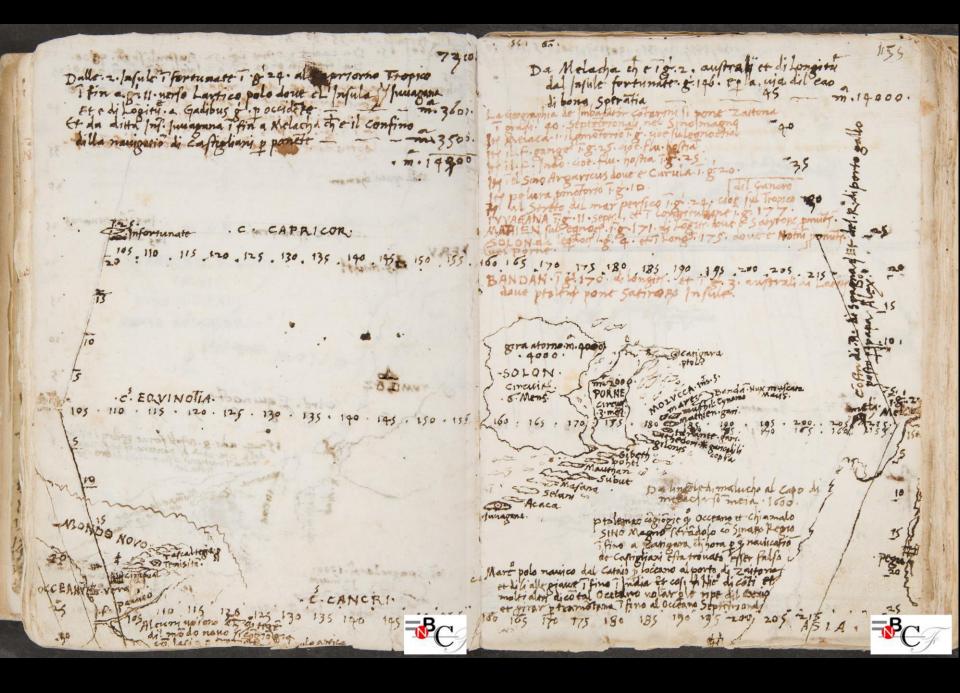
G. B. Ramusio, *Delle Navigationi*..., Vol. 3, 1565

### World map

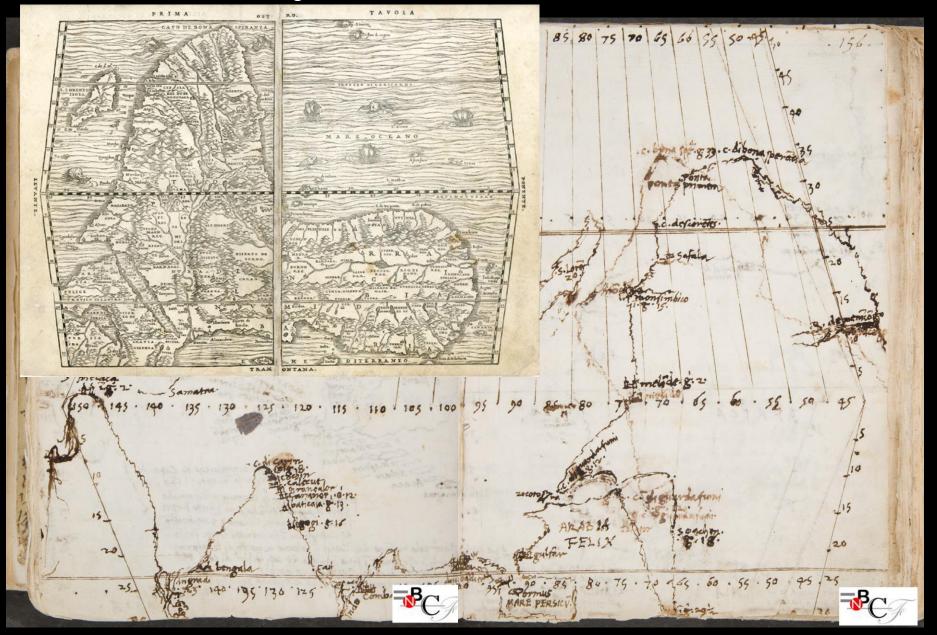
in trapezoidal projection, with south at top ("Abbozzo di carta di tutto il mondo (...) in proiezione trapezoidale, col sud alto")

Alberico codex, 153v-157r

5. FOFTH 1522 Paptibris ad portum hippali propingum parummer. di gnioriy & 5. Julian 7300. mo fire nouse qui auriran momorir aliburem our qui cim inform ad calchidism uniformit accommute names are ipic multo diomior for inner sydar collocotur quom until illa areo hat nany ex orner duningar por punimum unche aft nother wire in highertrangerim wifer inday & um unfum occide tom y of infinial homisphorium in originam pomeros verfum intacidore romunios. · Inst fortunatas ROMAE. IN AEDIBVS . F. MINIII ANNO.M. D.XXIII, MENSE NOVEMBRI. and B. Brand forme proof to Ville City name of parsent of west traping on I markage to a for quatitado oro che pero set - 125-Spagnela-m. 1300. AFRICA.



G. B. Ramusio, Delle Navigationi..., Vol. 1, 1554





### Some final observations

- Zorzi copied a few maps that are now lost or extremely rare.
- He also drew cartographic sketches to make sense of information in travel accounts.
- Positioning of maps followed an intentional program: illustrating the travel accounts.
- In conclusion, a precursor to G. B. Ramusio.