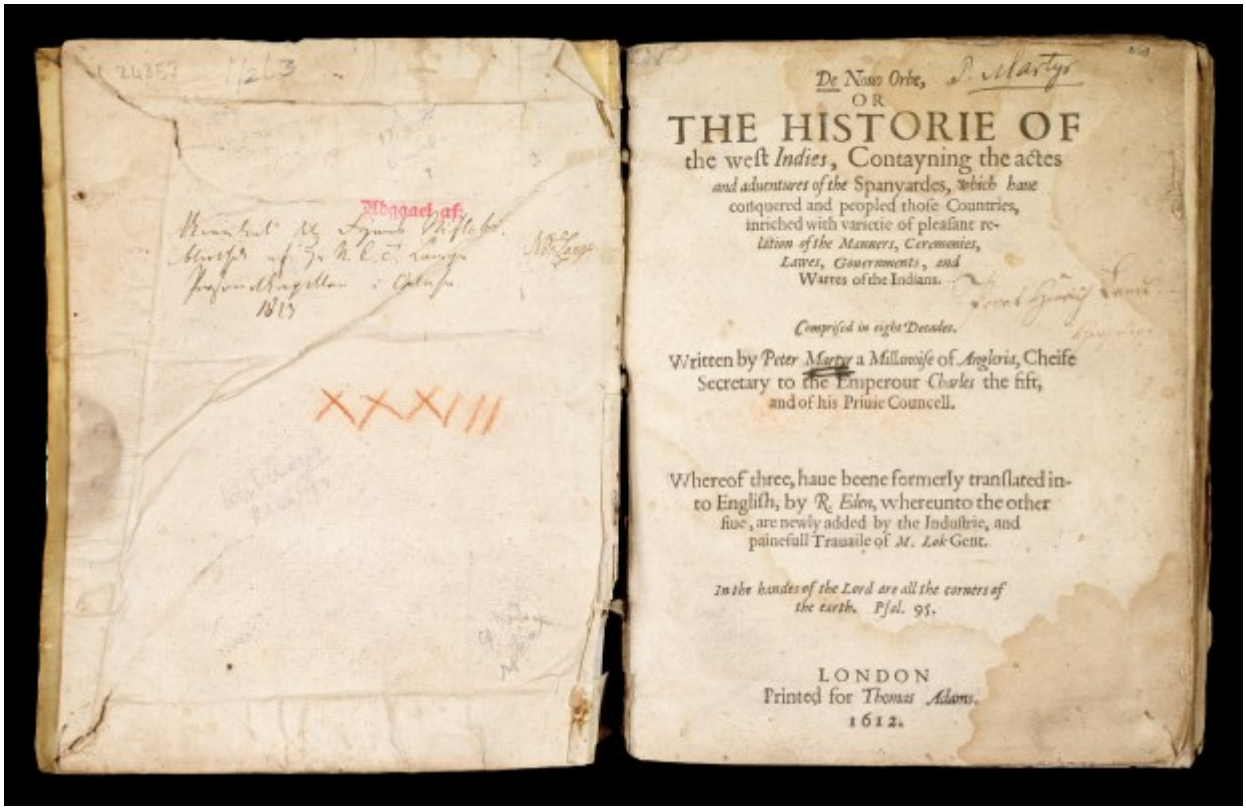


De Nouo Orbe, P. Martyr

OR

THE HISTORIE OF

the west *Indies*, Contayning the actes and aduentures of the Spanyardes, which haue conquered and peopled those Countries, inriched with varietie of pleasant relation of the Manners, Ceremonies, Lawes, Gouernments, and Warres of the Indians.

Comprised in eight Decades.

Written by *Peter Martyr* a *Millanoise* of *Angleria*, Cheife Secretary to the Emperour *Charles* the fift, and of his Priuie Councell.

Whereof three, haue beene formerly translated into English, by *R. Eden*, whereunto the other fiue, are newly added by the Industrie, and painefull Trauaile of *M. Lok* Gent.

In the handes of the Lord are all the corners of the earth. Psal. 95.

LONDON
Printed for *Thomas Adams*.
1612.

Quarto (182 by 145 mm). Woodcut initials. Without A1 blank, title-page and early leaves with pale marginal stains, other occasional throughout, 2P4-8 with rust hole affecting a few letters, some worming in gutter margins catching a few letters, several gatherings sprung; contemporary limp vellum, yapp fore-edges, remains of 2 pairs of ties, preserved in a brown morocco backed slipcase and chemise.

“WHOSO COMMITTE THEMSELVES UNTO THE HUGE, AND MAYNE OCEAN, IN A SMALL VESSELL, MAY SOONER EXPECT TO BE SWALLOWED IN THAT VASTITY OF WATERS, THROUGH THE RAGE AND FURIE OF THE SEA, THEN [SIC] HOPE TO GAINE THE DESIRED, AND INTENDED HAVEN” (LOK)

De Novo Orbe, or the Historie of the west Indies, Contayning the actes and adventures of the Spanyardes, which have conquered and peopled those Countries, inriched with varietie of pleasant relation of the Manners, Ceremonies, Lawes, Governments, and Warres of the Indians.

Author
MARTYR d’ANGHIERA, Peter; Richard EDEN; and Michael LOK

Publication date
1612.

Publisher
Printed for Thomas Adams,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
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Dimensions

Notes
The first complete English translation of the complete eight books of Peter Martyr d'Anghiera's 'De orbe novo' "decades", one of the earliest, and important accounts of the history of the discovery, and conquest, of the New World, from Columbus to Cortes.

Fragments of the "Decades" had been published since 1504 (Venice), but were not published in full until December 1530 (Alcala de Henares, by Miguel de Eguia). Richard Eden (c.1520-1576) translated the first three "Decades" into English, published by William Powell as 'The Decades of the newe worlde or West India, Conteyning the nauigations and conquestes of the Spanyardes', in 1555. That text was revised, most likely by Eden himself, and published by Richard Willes as 'The History of Travayle in the West and East Indies, and other countreys…', in 1577, after Eden's death. That edition included full translations of the first four decades, and abridgements of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth.

Michael Lok (c.1532-1620), after many years of merchant adventuring, and being imprisoned for related debts, translated the fourth to eighth "Decades", as here, "by the Industrie, and painefull Travaile", entered at Stationers Hall for copyright on the 9th April, 1612.

Peter Martyr, "the first historian of America, was born at Arona, in Italy, about 1455, and died at Grenada, in Spain, in 1526. He possessed eminent ability and learning, and is believed to have been the first writer to notice in his works the discovery of America by his countryman Columbus, as he is the first who published a treatise descriptive of the peculiarities of the natives of the New World. In 1483 he went to Rome where he became acquainted with Cardinal Ascanio Sforza and Pomponius Laetus, to both of whom many of his letters were addressed. He was extremely fond of letter-writing, and, having a wide circle of correspondents, it was no doubt owing to him that the news of Columbus's discovery, which he probably received from the discoverer himself, became speedily known to a number of notable people outside of Spain. In 1494 he was ordained priest and appointed as tutor to the children of Ferdinand and Isabella. Seven years later he was sent on a diplomatic mission to Egypt, an account of which he has given us in his Legatio babylonica. He was the friend and contemporary of Columbus, Vasco de Gama, Cortés, Magellan, Cabot, and Vespuccius. From personal contact with these discoverers, as well as from his official position as a member of the Council for the Indies, which afforded him the free inspection of documents of undoubted authenticity, he was enabled to obtain, at first hand, much valuable information regarding the discoveries made by the early navigators. These facts he embodied in his "Decade", which were based upon his extensive correspondence, but were written with more care and give more ample details. His works were held in the highest esteem by his contemporaries and have always been placed in the highest rank of authorities on the history of the first association of the Indians with the Europeans, and are indispensable as a primary source for the history of early American discoveries" (Church).

The initial blank [A1] is often lacking, the last example to appear in available records with the blank was Sothebys 1987.

Bibliography
Alden & Landis, ‘European Americana: a chronological guide to works printed in Europe relating to the Americas, 1493-1776’, 612/13; Arents, ‘Tobacco: a catalogue’, 6; Church, ‘Catalogue of books relating to the discovery and early history of North and South America’, 358; ESTC 650; Sabin, ‘Dictionary of books relating to America from its discovery to the present time’, 1563.

Provenance
Provenance: 1. Seventeenth century ownership inscription of “M:r Lange” on the inside front cover; 2. Ownership inscription on the title-page, and lengthy note on the inside front cover in the same hand, dated 1817; the ‘Frank S. Streeter Library: Navigation, Pacific Voyages, Cartography’, Christie’s, April 16th, 2007, lot 351.

Price: £40000

Inventory reference: 24353

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