

M
M. Moleiro

VALLARD ATLAS

M. MOLEIRO ➤ **THE ART OF PERFECTION**

“Unique and unrepeatable first editions, strictly limited to 987 numbered and authenticated copies”



Atlases are undeniably one of the finest graphic testimonies we have of the history of civilizations.

If we could contemplate them all together, we would be able to see how, as time went by, the new territories discovered by the West were plotted whilst mythical lands disappeared, and how, over the centuries, reality and empiricism replaced legends and the imagination.

M. Moleiro Editor has reproduced three of the most outstanding extant atlases. Atlases bearing witness to an era when cartography was far from merely a navigation tool, being above all, a strategic political weapon.

The *Atlas Miller* and the *Universal Atlas* were the work of the first two Portuguese cartography schools: the Reinels' school and the Homems' school. It was these cartographers, pioneers in the science of cartography, who gave Portuguese sea charts the very distinctive traits that set them apart from all the others produced in the same period.

In the 16th century, with a population of under 2 million inhabitants, Portugal became the world's leading transoceanic empire. By the middle of this period, the Portuguese seafarers knew almost the entire world, thanks not only to new navigation instruments but also the precise charts guiding them in their unceasing search for new, undiscovered lands.

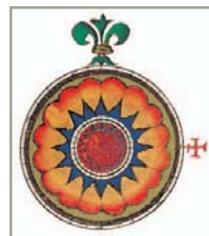
The *Atlas Miller*, made in c. 1519 by Lopo Homem, Pedro and Jorge Reinel and António de Holanda, set a standard difficult to surpass. Indeed, experts consider it to be the most beautiful and important atlas in the history of cartography. This atlas was innovative on account of not only its outstanding miniatures, more characteristic of a book of hours than an atlas, but also its remarkable geopolitical value. This atlas is both intriguing and mysterious because, in fact, it conceals the information it apparently conveys. Alfredo Marques's study in the companion volume of the facsimile edition reveals more than one surprising and previously undiscovered facet of this atlas.

The cartography by Diogo Homem – the most prolific Portuguese cartographer – is the most emblematic example of the extraordinary value of the sea charts produced in the western Iberian Peninsula in the 16th century. His extremely beautiful *Universal Atlas*, c. 1564, will always be considered to be one of the most brilliant productions of this cartography. The miniatures that embellish its pages feature heraldry motifs, splendid compass roses, ships sailing the seas and kings and magnates ruling their lands from their thrones. Diogo Homem's charts were undoubtedly a priceless treasure in the knowledge of the lands lying beyond their immediate frontiers.

The Portuguese were undeniably protagonists for some time, but were soon followed by the Spanish, English, Dutch and French. The prolific Dieppe school of northern France produced some of the atlases with the most innovative and beautiful marginalia. The *Vallard Atlas*, whilst ascribed to the Dieppe cartography school, has a clearly Portuguese flavour due to either its creator or the model that inspired it. Like the *Atlas Miller*, one of its most noteworthy characteristics are the miniatures depicting colonization scenes from the 16th century, plus countless illustrations of the daily life of the native population.



Vallard Atlas



Universal Atlas

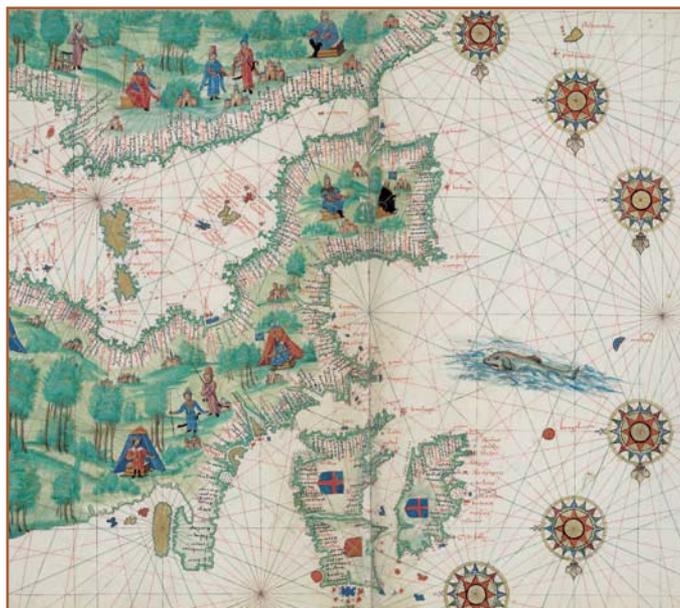


Atlas Miller

Vallard Atlas

The Huntington Library • San Marino (US)

www.moleiro.com/vallard



- Shelf mark: HM 29.
- Date: 1547.
- Size: ± 280 x 390 mm.
- 68 pages, 15 double-page nautical charts.
- Red leather binding with gold decoration.
- Full-colour commentary volume.
- First, unique and unrepeatable edition strictly limited to 987 copies.

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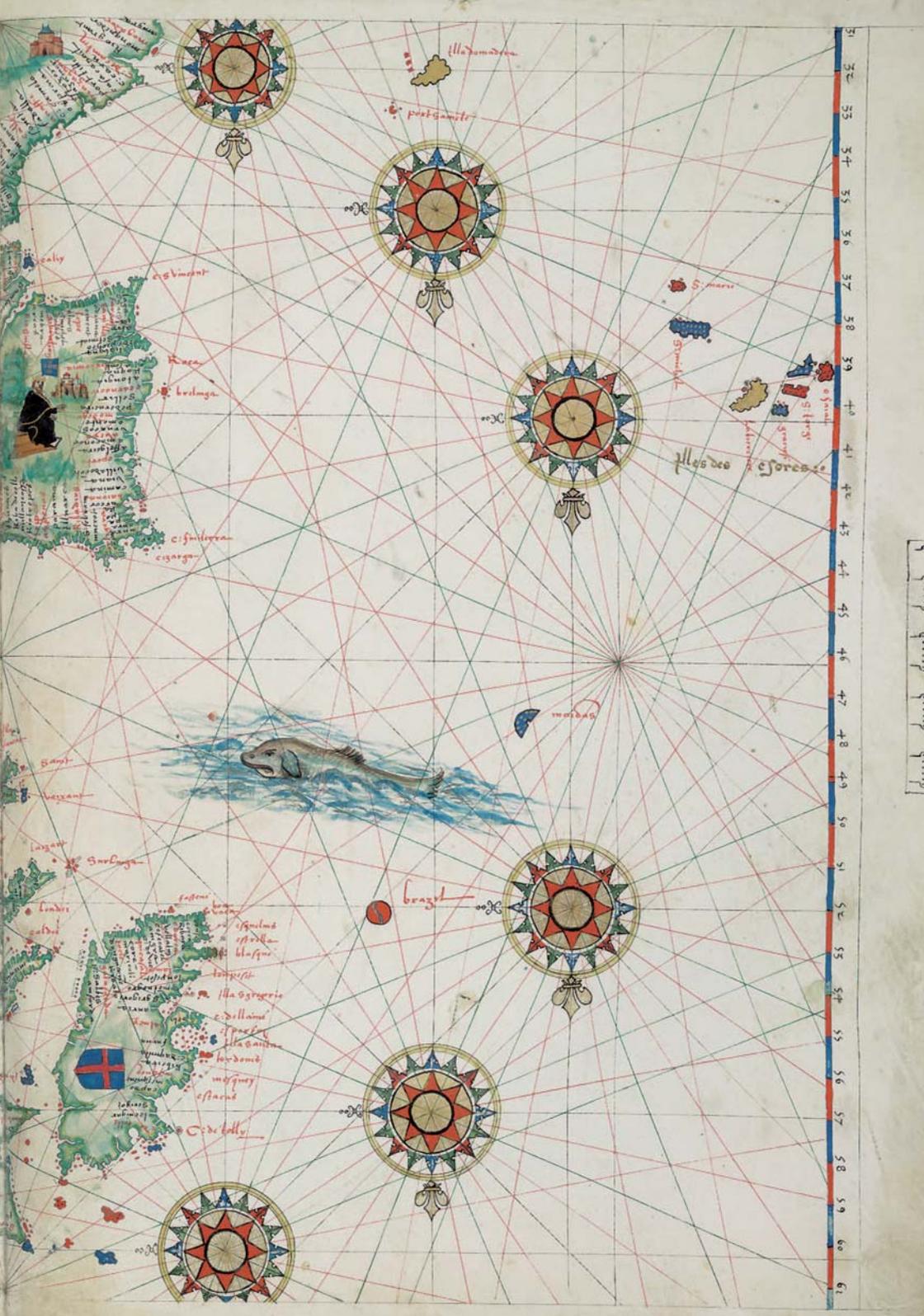
nautical information, tables of declinations, etc. Its first known owner was Nicolas Vallard of Dieppe.

In addition to the evidently Portuguese plans and geographical content, this work also passed through the hands of a professional illuminator who created fabulous images that are the equal of those in the *Atlas Miller*.

This anonymous atlas also includes beautiful images depicting exotic non-European peoples, episodes from the colonisation process, etc. One example of the latter is an image of the French colonists of Roberval in 1542-1543, in Canada, which had recently been discovered by Jacques Cartier (1534-36 and 1541).







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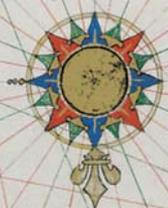
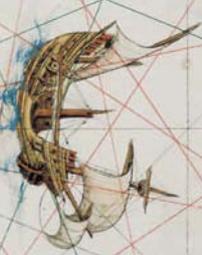


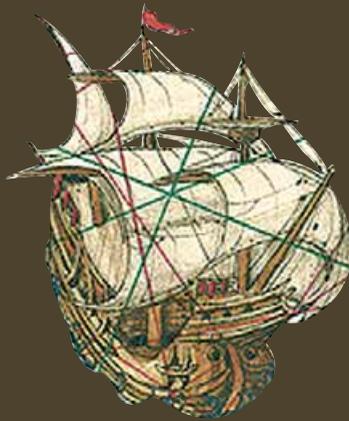
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