The maps and illustrations in the Quivira Collection date from 1540 to 1802, a span of 260 years or so. These dates also bracket a period of history unprecedented for the general expansion of knowledge and information. After all, the use of the printed word began with the Gutenberg Bible of 1455. The first application of the new technology of printing to maps and geographical knowledge coincides almost exactly with Columbus’s first voyage in 1492. Thus the maps in this collection span the transition from the European Renaissance to the Age of Enlightenment and bear eloquent testimony to the expansion of useful knowledge.

Editor’s Note: The exhibit, Mapping the Pacific Coast - Coronado to Lewis and Clark - The Quivira Collection, is currently on display in the Gould Gallery aboard Berkeley. The maps presented in the following pages are from this extensive exhibit and from the book of the same name. The author and Collection’s owner, Henry Wendt, has kindly given us permission to reproduce a few select maps, with his accompanying text, in Mains’l Haul.
One of the most important maps appearing in Ortelius's popular atlases, this was the first map devoted to the Pacific Ocean, the discovery of which is memorialized by the depiction, with the legend, of Ferdinand Magellan's flagship Victoria. This map quite accurately depicts Nova Hispania (Mexico) and the California peninsula. The west coast of America is, however, elongated, with a bulge along the 40°N latitude (just north of San Francisco Bay). Nevertheless, many of the place-names from Cabrillo's voyage of 1542-1544 are shown along the coast, including Cape Mendocino and Cape de San Francisco. Quivira is shown to the northeast of Cape Mendocino. Japan is moved farther west closer to the coast of the Asian continent. Note the depiction, in the upper left corner of the map, of the Great Wall of China (as reported four hundred years previously by Marco Polo, who even at this date was believed to have been the only European to have seen it).

Maris Pacifici suggests a large continent in the Southern Hemisphere. This assumption, widely held at the time, results from calculations of the landmass in the Northern Hemisphere and the theory that there must be an equivalent mass and weight in the South in order to balance the earth on its axis.
This is the first map devoted exclusively to the west and northwest coasts of North America and comes from Cornelis de Jode’s atlas entitled Speculum Orbis Terrae. Having been issued in only one edition of the atlas, this map is extremely rare.

The title, Quiviræ Regnū, means Kingdom of Quivira. The city of Quivira is positioned on the banks of a river situated below Cape Mendocino and above C. de San Francisco. The map is beautifully decorated with imaginative drawings of buffaloes, natives in their tents, an Asian ship suggesting trade with the Orient, and two sea monsters. The Strait of Anian, separating the two continents, is prominent, as is the Northwest Passage. The implication is, of course, that if one could find a route from Europe to the Kingdom of Quivira, preferably via the Northwest Passage, the Quivirans would point the way to the western route to Asia and thus the spice monopolies of Portugal and Spain could be broken. This notion inspired much European exploration of North America and, in particular, influenced Louis XIV of France, who commissioned several attempts to find the Northwest Passage and who also instructed the comte de Frontenac to proceed overland to Quivira after founding a city (New Orleans) at the mouth of the Mississippi.
This beautiful and handsomely illustrated map of North and South America appeared in a general world atlas first published by Hondius in 1606 and it was reprinted many times until 1630. It is a stereographic projection with the curvature of the earth displayed by curving longitudinal lines that join at each Pole. Central and South America are portrayed quite accurately, but the extreme western extension of North America is exaggerated. Hondius was one of the first cartographers to include the discoveries made by Sir Francis Drake’s raiding expedition against the Spanish empire and Drake’s resulting circumnavigation of the globe between 1577 and 1580. On this map present-day California is labeled *Nova Albion*, which is the name given it by Drake, and *Quivira Regnum* has been pushed a little farther north toward *Anian Regnum*.

Inset in the lower left corner is an illustration of Brazilian natives making a local drink. The large ship in the Pacific opposite *Nova Albion* is a Japanese sailing vessel with a large anchor on the bow.
Although not the first map to depict California as an island (the credit, or blame, for that persistent misconception goes to John Briggs's map published in London in 1625), this map is probably the more influential in that it was widely studied and copied throughout Europe. This is the first map of any note to focus on Nouveau Mexique and the first map of the area to be produced on such a large scale. New Mexican Indian tribes are identified along the R del Norte, or Rio Grande, mistakenly shown flowing southwest rather than southeast. There are new place-names on the west coast including, particularly, the peninsula Agüela de Cato jutting to the northwest above Californie Isle. Sanson's depiction of the north coast of the island of California with three “fingers” was widely copied by other European cartographers and perpetuated in many later editions of Sanson's own maps.
The Spanish authorities, much like the Russians, preferred as a matter of policy to keep records of their explorations, especially maps, secret. Consequently, published Spanish maps from the Age of Exploration are quite rare. This map drawn by Miguel Venegas, a Jesuit missionary active for many years in New Spain, is based on Father Kino’s famous map of 1701, which was published first in Paris in 1705. However, unlike Kino, Venegas shows the full length of the peninsula and includes more place-names and has more updated material. This map, a rare first edition, accompanied the first history of California, Noticias de la California y de su conquista temporal y espiritual…, published in three volumes, by Miguel Venegas, S.J., in Madrid, in 1757.

Editor’s Note: We are able to present in Mains’l Haul only a small portion of the Mapping the Pacific Coast Exhibit. The exhibit is much more extensive including rare books and illustrations such as those pictured.

Left: This extraordinary collection: A Voyage of the Pacific Ocean undertaken by the Command of His Majesty for Making Discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere by Captain James Cook (vols. 1 & 2) and Captain James King (vol. 3) and Atlas (vol. 4), London, 1784, are from the first edition and form the first official account of Cook’s third expedition.

Above Right: Also on display: Voyages from Montreal, on the river St. Laurence, through the Continent of North America, to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Philadelphia, 1802. Originally published as Mackenzie’s journal, the log recounts the trek of the first European to discover and document the overland route to the Pacific.

* The complete Exhibit catalogue, Mapping the Pacific Coast, by Henry Wendt, can be purchased in the Museum store.