

PAHANG AND THE SEA



Maritime Networks and Connections
between Southeast Asia and Beyond

ST ANTONY'S
COLLEGE OXFORD

13 — 14
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MUZIUM
PAHANG



Lee Kong Chian
Research
Fellowship

Pahang and the Iberian Thalassocracies: From the Golden Peninsula to the Passage of Empire

by Dr. Ramón Vega Piniella



First Stop: Gold and Interest

Letter from Jesuit Juan de Ribera on the strategic situation of the region

1618. Signatura: FILIPINAS,20,R.12,N.80



“All the nations of the world are moved by interest, which is the magnet of the hearts. We see that for silver and gold men have gone and go even to the shadows of Hell. No one can doubt this maxim nor has need of proof.”

First Stop: Gold and Interest



Cantino Chart, 1502



Diego Ribero Chart, 1529t



Atlas Fernão Vaz Dourado,



Urbano Monte, 1587



Queen Mary Atlas, 1588



Details from Nicolaus Germanus's 1467 copy of a map from Ptolemy's Geography



Second Stop: The Encomienda Mentality



"Cristiano encomendero de indios de este Reyno", from
"*Primer nueva corónica y buen gobierno*"

c.1600

By Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala, indigenous (inca)
chronicler of Peru



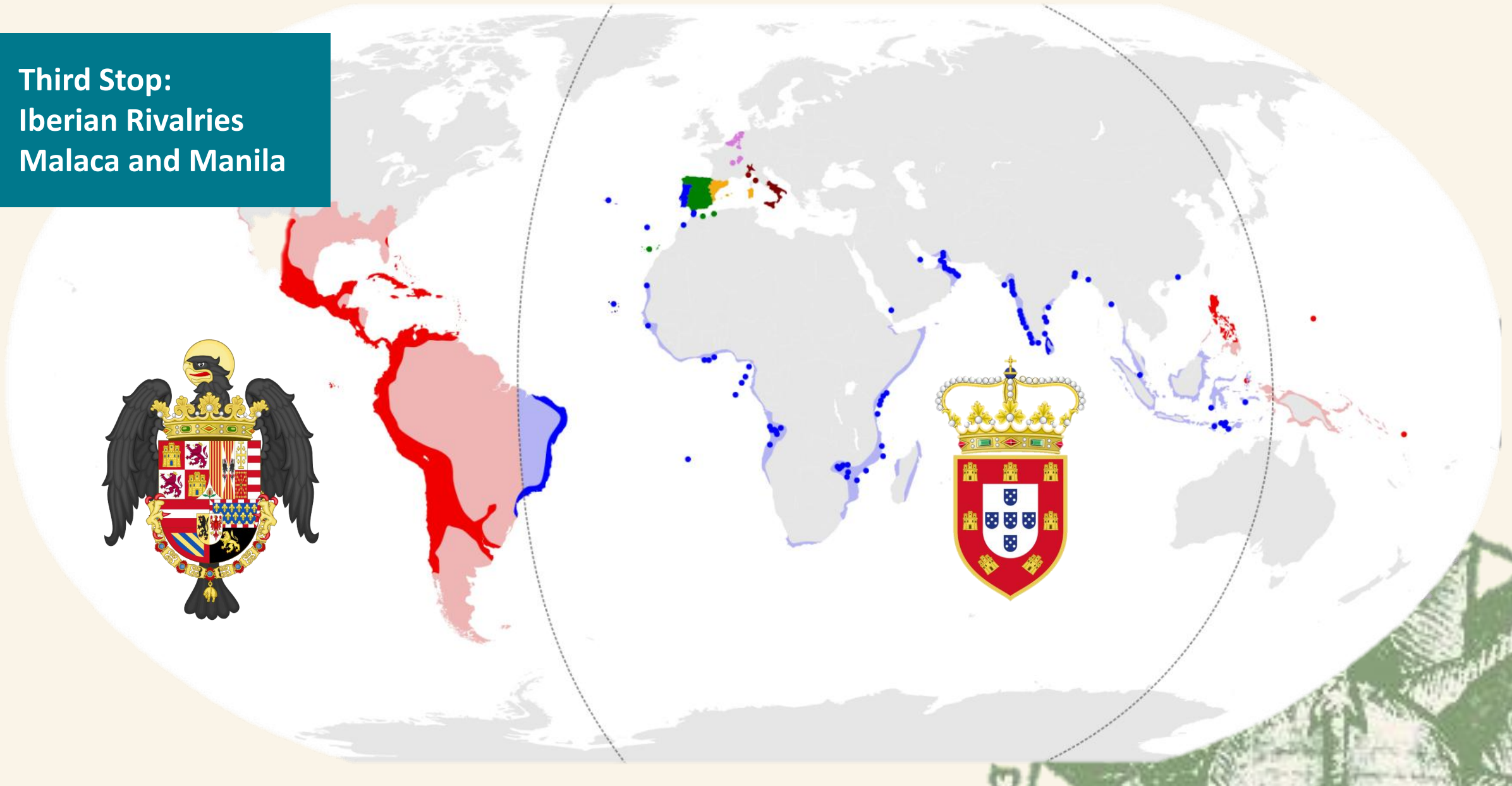
Codex Kingsborough
Codex Tepetlaoztoc

c.1550

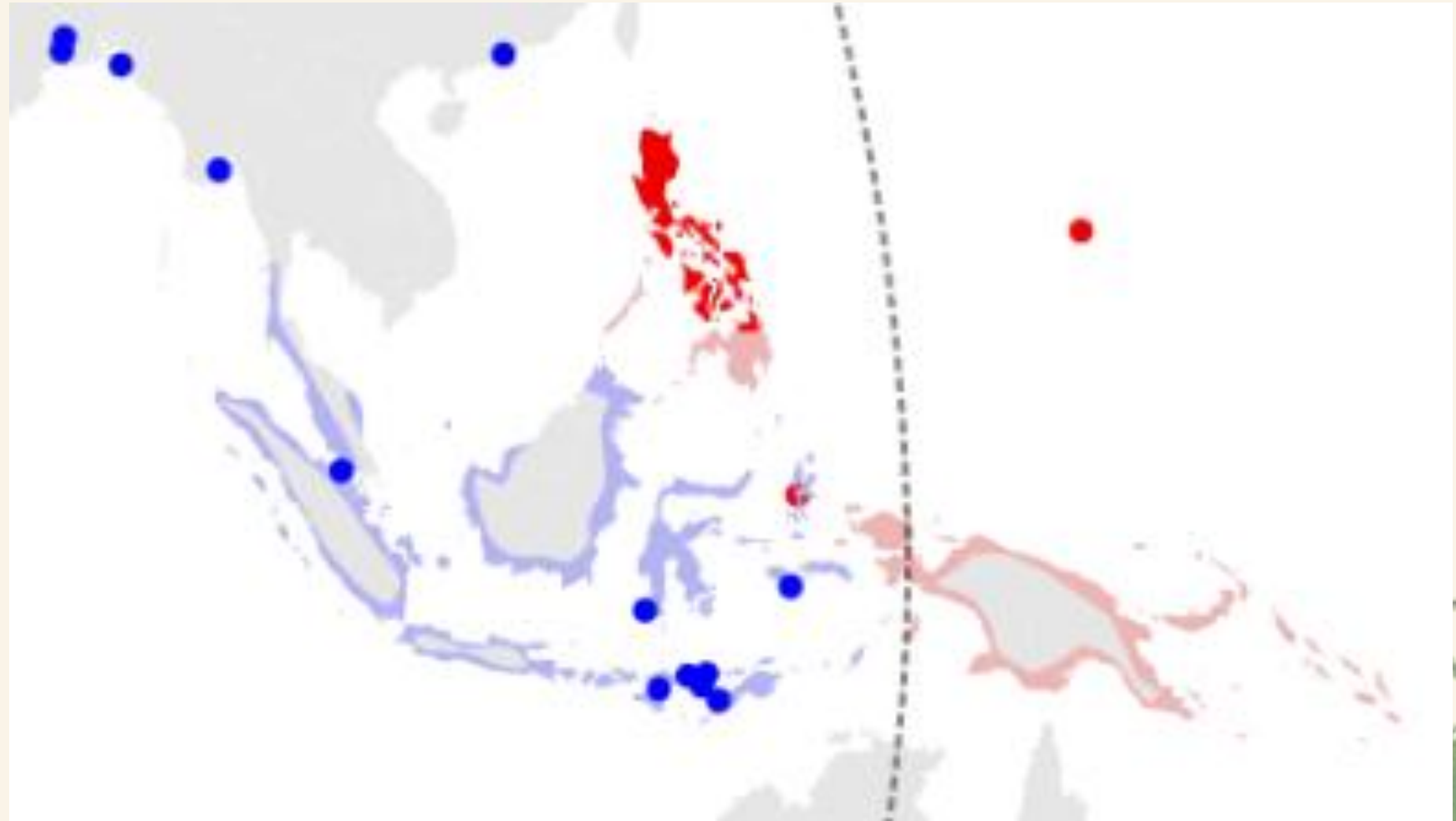
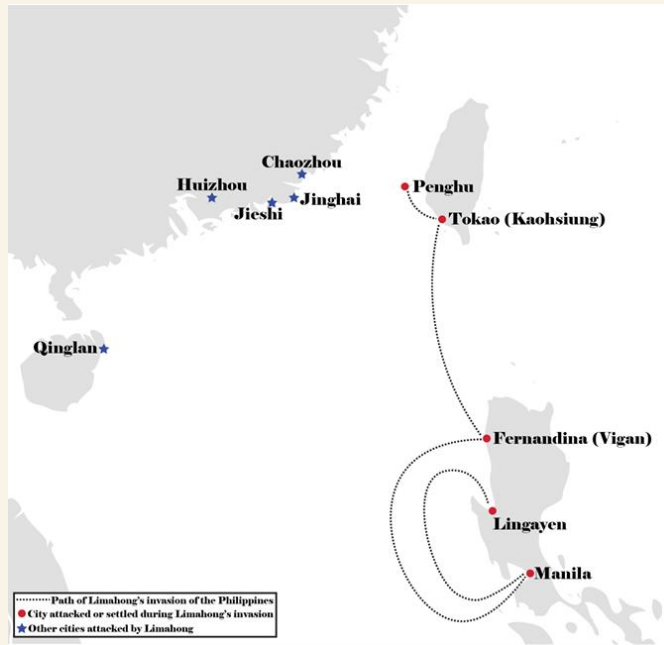
Complain to the King of Spain and
the Consejo de Indias about the
"Encomenderos"



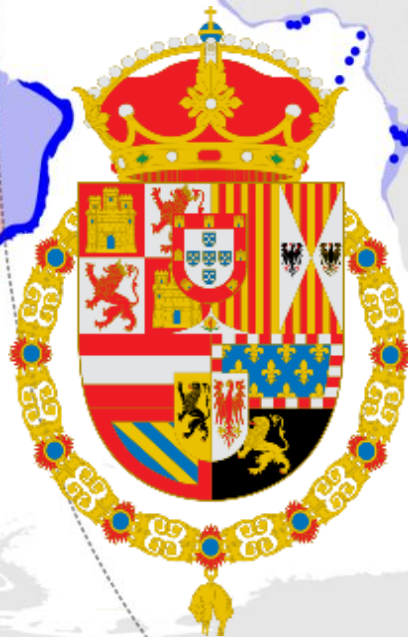
**Third Stop:
Iberian Rivalries
Malaca and Manila**



Fourth Stop: The Iberian Union and the Map of The World



Fourth Stop: The Iberian Union and the Map of The World



Portuguese and Spanish Empires merged between 1580 and 1640

Fourth Stop: The Iberian Union and the Map of The World

Selden Map, 1620



Translation of Matteo Ricci's 1602 Kunyu Wanguo Quantu



Pahang
彭亨

Fourth Stop: The Iberian Union and the Map of The World

Selden Map, 1620

Manila (吕宋王城
Lusong wangcheng
"Luzon Royal City")

"The Spanish go back and forth
from this harbor to Luzon"
(化人番在此港往來呂宋)
and Eastern Ocean (東海)



**Fifth Stop:
The Passage of Pahang**

Satraucsiā depahan



Manila

Satrauceria de pahar

Malaca




Fifth Stop: The Passage of Pahang

**Letter about the expedition
to Sumatra**

c.1582

**Signatura:
AGS, GYM, LEG, 137**



Signatura:
AGS, GYM, LEG, 137

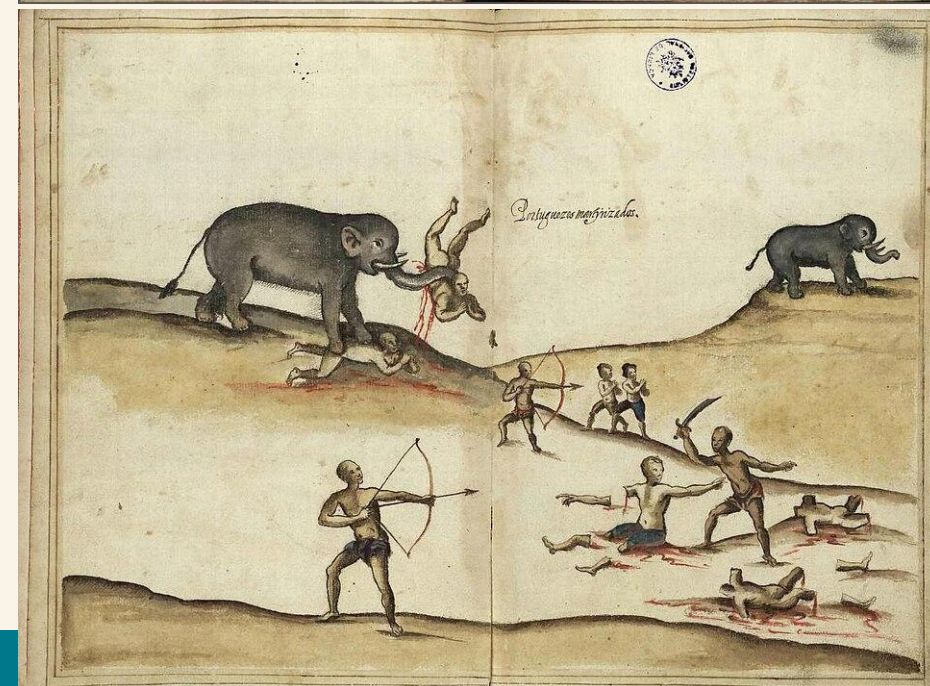
[illegible]

“The voyage from the Philippines to Malacca goes by way of Brunei. One passes six leagues beyond the city and then sails along the coast of the island for more than one hundred and fifty leagues, until reaching **the passage of Pahang**, which is the mainland of Malacca. It is thirty leagues across from Brunei to that point, and I myself have arrived at this passage. Along the way there are small islets, some sparsely inhabited and others uninhabited. Pahang is a river populated by Moors, and pepper is gathered there. Following the southern coast, seventy or eighty leagues away lies Malacca: and by the northern

“The voyage from the Philippines to Malacca goes by way of Brunei. One passes six leagues beyond the city and then sails along the coast of the island for more than one hundred and fifty leagues, until reaching the passage of Pahang, which is the mainland of Malacca. It is thirty leagues across from Brunei to that point, and I myself have arrived at this passage. Along the way there are small islets, some sparsely inhabited and others uninhabited. Pahang is a river populated by Moors, and pepper is gathered there. Following the southern coast, seventy or eighty leagues away, lies Malacca; and by the northern coast, at a similar distance, is Patani, and from Patani to Siam is ninety or one hundred leagues, if one follows the bay.”



Historia de Servicos com Martiro de Luis Monteiro Coutinho, 1615



Letter from Jesuit Juan de Ribera on the strategic situation of the region. Interview with the captured Holand General Blancarte

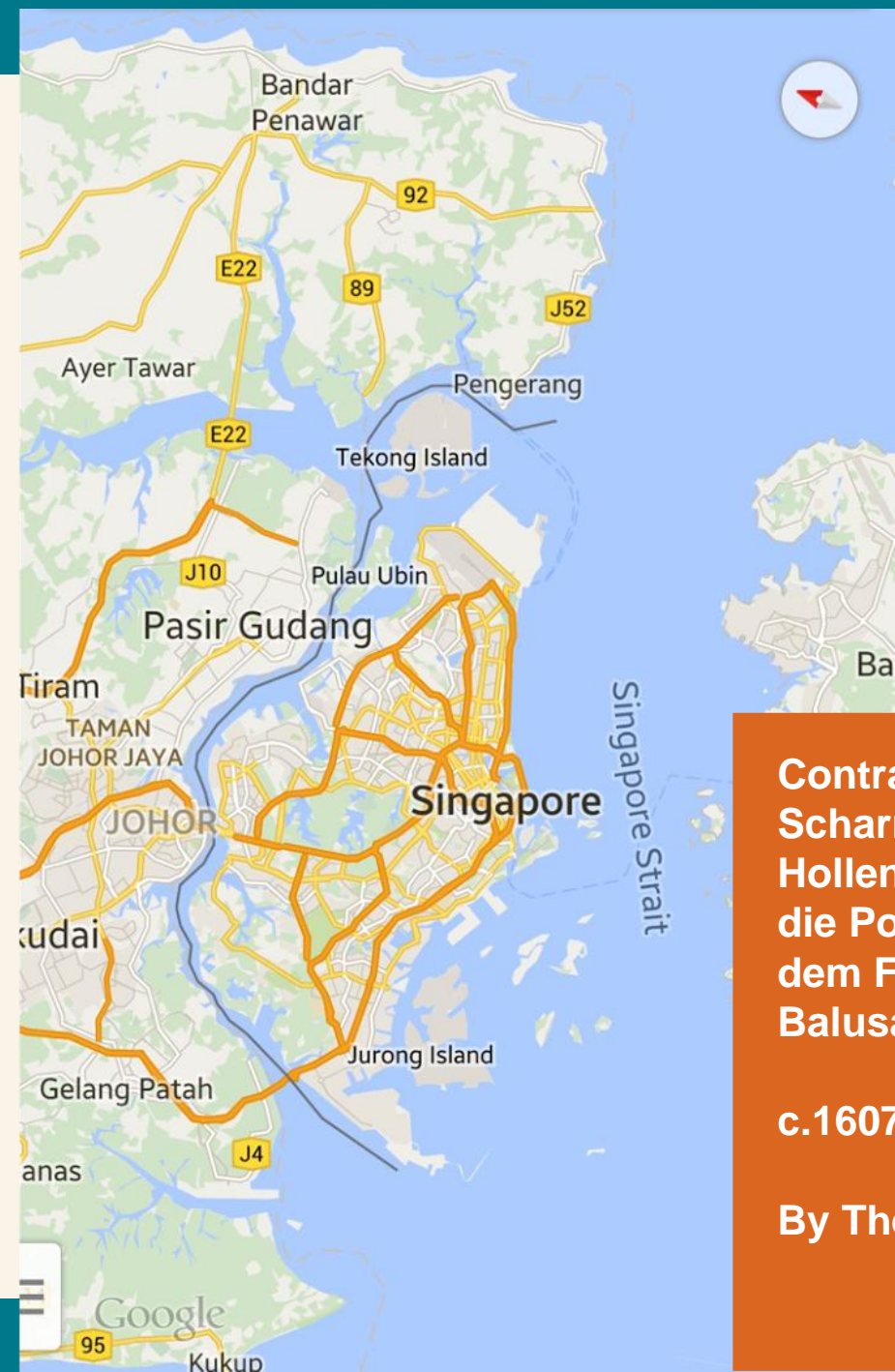
1618

Signatura:
FILIPINAS,20,R.12,N.80



por sus intereses y almogorifazgos, Tienen factorías O corresponden-
cias con Holanda, Gelanda, Escocia, Inglaterra, Irlanda, Dina-
marca, Noruega, Francia, Alemania La Alta, y la baxa, Germania
Colonia, Baviera, Austria, Ingria, Boemia, Salta La Transilua-
nia, y en nuestros Reynos dentro de Seuilla, assi lo dixo el Holan-
des General blancarte quetruuimos aqui captiuo

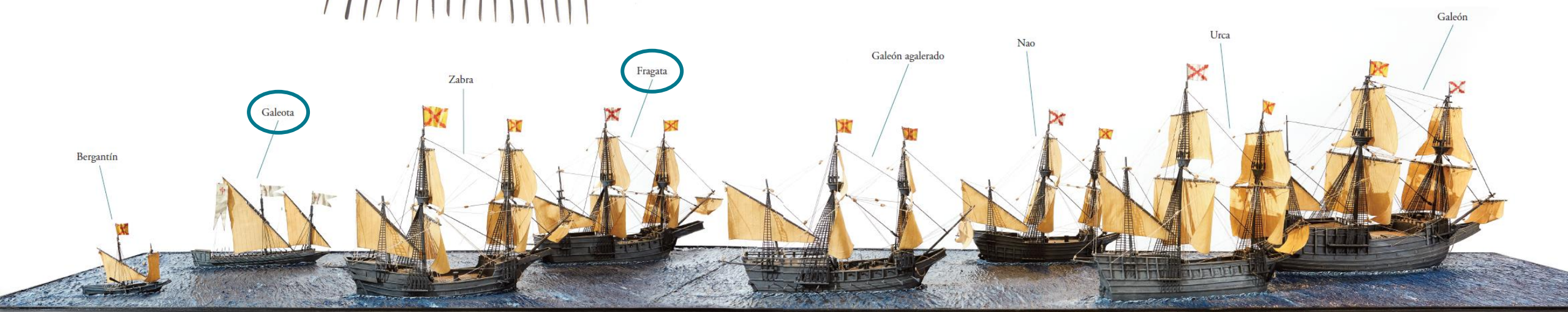
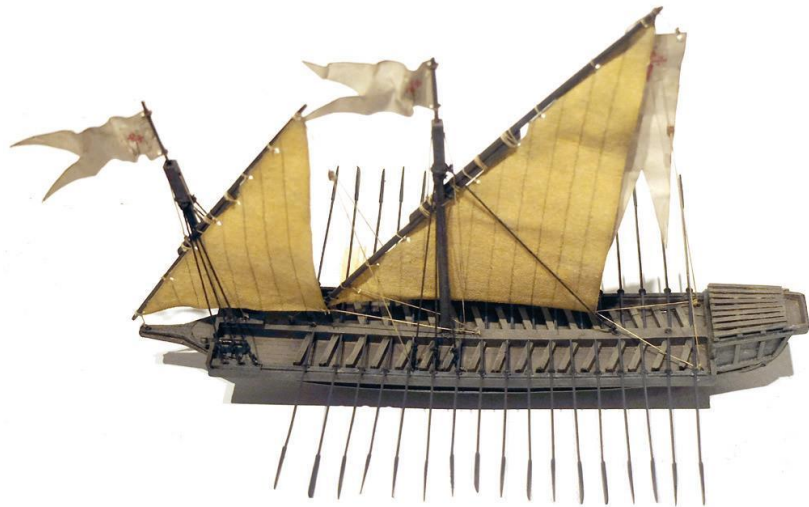
“They have factories or correspondences with Holland, Zeeland, Scotland, England, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, France, Upper and Lower Germany, Germania, Cologne, Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, up to Transylvania, and in Our Kingdoms within Seville, as said by the Dutch general Blancarte who we had captive



Contrafactur des Scharmützels der Hollender wider die Portigesen in dem Flus Balusabar

c.1607

By Theodor de Bry



Fragata



Length and beam: 24 x 7.8 meters.

Crew: Mariners 15; soldiers 40 to 100.

Cargo: From 20-50 tons, the most common, up to 95.

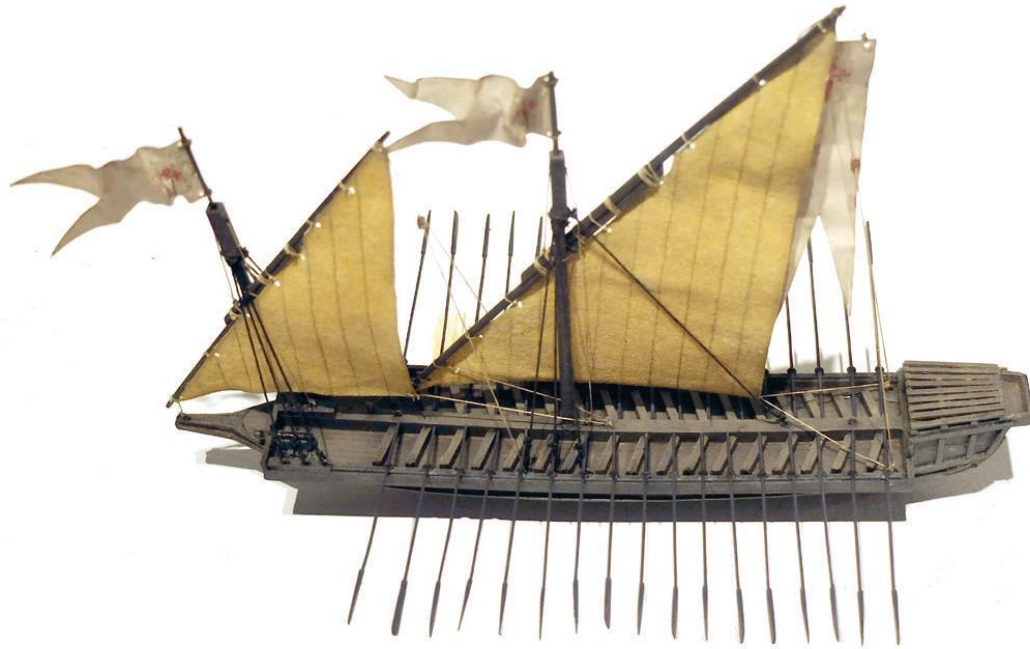
Description and functions:

Excellent ships to be used as warships sailing alone, but also as escorts, explorers, fighting piracy or serving as mail carriers. They compensated their lack of weaponry with speed, becoming very versatile ships.

Notes:

- The design was truly revolutionary for its time, laying the foundations for many other ships in later centuries. It is very possible that the first ones were manufactured in Cuba with direct the involvement of Pedro Menendez.
- The smaller ones were cheap to make, sometimes costing the same as a 'bergantin'.
- Some of them with much larger dimensions, up to 180 and 200 tons, were built.

Galeota



Length and beam: 21 x 4.5 meters.

Crew: Mariners 8 (approx.), Rowers 17 per lane; Soldiers: Up to 60.

Load: 10 tons.

Description and functions:

Extremely fast and light, they were used as "subtle forces" to take advantage of these qualities. They could act individually, fulfilling the functions of the 'bergantines', or as patrol boats, something for which they were highly prized on the American coasts. When they joined larger fleets, they supported other ships, using them to surround enemy fleets and board damaged boats.

Notes:

- The rowers were volunteers, known as "good-buoy". Generally they were experienced fishermen, who earned more by fishing than by joining the fleets.
- Similar to the so-called 'half galeras' or 'subtle galeras', were the small versions of the Mediterranean 'galeras', although with a price four times lower.
- In the Bay of Biscay they also served for fishing.
- On both sides they were armed with small artillery, known as 'versos' (to shoot shrapnel onto the decks of other boats). Some of these guns, longer and of good reach, were called 'captain killers'.
- With their two Latin sails, they were the best boats to ride the winds and the storms.



Contrafactur des
Scharmutz els der
Hollender wider
die Portigesen in
dem Flus
Balusabar (Detail)

c.1607

By Theodor de Bry



**Fifth Stop:
The Passage of Pahang**

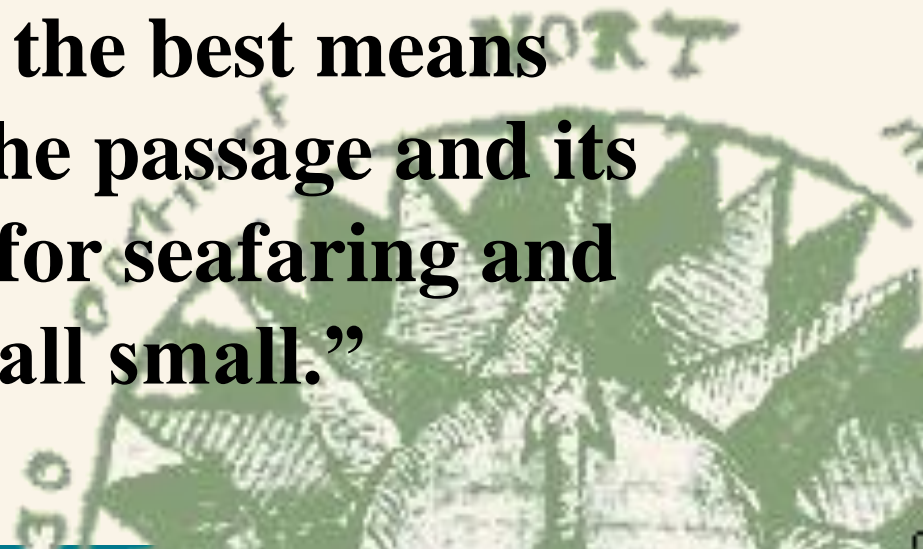
Letter about the expedition
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AGS, GYM, LEG, 137



“This I know from the **account of the Indians in my encomienda, who in their ships have gone many times to trade in Malacca and Siam in the company of the Bruneians... And it seems to me... that it would be very important to bring that kingdom of Brunei into the service of His Majesty by the best means possible, because it is in the passage and its people have a reputation for seafaring and fighting, though they are all small.”**



Conclusions



1. Pahang was imagined as golden, and this belief had real consequences.
2. Spaniards approached it thanks to **the encomienda workers traditions**.
3. Cartography, from Pigafetta to Ricci to Erédia, consistently marked Pahang because a reason. It was a reference in both latitude (Malaysia-china) and longitude (Malaysia-Brunei) at a node of world trade.
4. The **Passage of Pahang** symbolized the junction of two thalassocracies. It represented the dream of a single global route of commerce and communication



en vn Syllogismo. —
Todas las Naciones del mundo se mueuen por interés que es el iman
de los coracones; y auemos que por la Plata y Oro Sanydo y uan
Las Sombras Saltan las Sombras del Infierno. desta Maxima
ninguno puede dudar, ni tiene necesidad de prueua —

Letter from Jesuit Juan de
Ribera on the strategic
situation of the region

1618

Signatura:
FILIPINAS, 20, R. 12, N. 80



en vn Syllogismo. —
“All the nations of the world are moved
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men have gone and go even to the
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maxim nor has need of proof.”



Agustín García-López Loaeza

Ahmad Mashadi

Ahmad Mukhlis Bin Mohd Amin

Ahmad Zaki Bin Rashid

Amru Khalid Bin Sazali

Brendan Luyt

Camilo

Cesar Cabanas

Chung Mayb Khuen

Clement Onn

Cristina Álvarez Faes

Cuauhtémoc Villamar

Daniel Tham

Dato Indera Ibrahim bin Ismail

David Alfred (&Family)

David Almazan

David Clarke

Thank you!

Eng Dih Teo

Firman Faturhman

Fr. Joe Lopez Carpio

Hugo Vázquez Bravo

James Warren

Jeffrey Say

Jennifer Lam

Joanna Tan

Joost C.A. Schollenbroek

Juan Payá

Karamina Puspitasari

Kwa Chong Guan

Li Jia Apica

Madya Dr Riswadi Bin Azmi

Mages Periasamy

Manuel Gracia Rivas

Mercedes Alonso Frayle

Michael Fletcher

Miriam Yeo

Mohd Rohaizat Abdul Wahab

Mok Ly Yng

Noorashikin Zulkifli

Nuno Correia

Peter Borschberg

Rafael López Guzmán

Siddharta Pérez

Steven Milon Esparza

Sze Wee Low

Wan Helmy Zain

William R. Sargent

Yuan Hong

and all the admirable

Pahang Museum Team



Thank you!

Dr. Ramón Vega Piniella

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