

Giacomo Gastaldi, 1556

VNIVERSALE DELLA PARTE DEL MONDO
NVOVAMENTE RITROVATA *

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THIS MAP of the western hemisphere is one of the earliest printed maps to show Spanish movement into what is now the United States. In the years 1542-43 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo led a fleet of three ships north from Mexico to discover the coast of New Spain. In the course of their voyage they sailed almost to the present California-Oregon border and were the first Europeans to view what is now California. The expedition landed at a number of locations, visited Indian villages and gave names to prominent coastal features. On the mountains south of Monterey they found snow on the highest peaks of the coastal mountain range; this would be an aberration today, though not then. They gave the name *Sierra Neuadas* to these mountains and that name found its way to this map, though positioned too far north. This is the earliest record on a printed map of the Cabrillo expedition and thus the European discovery of California. Other place names from the expedition appear on later maps (map 4). It was many years later that the much higher mountains in eastern California were christened Sierra Nevada.

This is also the first printed map to record the expedition of Francisco Vásquez de Coronado in 1540-1542 in the southwest of what is now the United States. The expedition was sent to discover fabled cities reputed to be of great wealth. They found Indian pueblos and villages. *Quiuira*, *Cicuich*, *Axa*, *Cucho* and *Tiguas* were names given to Indian settlements by Coronado. *Tiguas* was a pueblo on the Rio Grande (here mistakenly shown flowing into the Gulf of California) where Coronado wintered in 1541. *Quivira*, shown close to if not in California, was an Indian village in Kansas that Coronado reached. The report of his expedition was misunderstood or garbled and *Quivira* was placed to the northwest, and would in succeeding years wander over the face of maps.

Though this map is unsigned it is attributed to Giacomo Gastaldi (1500-1565), an engineer and official Cosmographer to the Republic of Venice. He was the foremost Italian cartographer of his time and known for the beauty of his maps. He produced over 100 maps of many parts of the world in his career, as well as the maps in an augmented edition of Ptolemy's *Geografia*, 1548.

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*UNIVERSAL OF THE NEWLY DISCOVERED PART OF THE WORLD

Map courtesy of The Huntington Library.

