PIRİ REİS
and
HIS PRECIOUS WORKS
(World Maps and The Book of Navigation)

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LIFE

Piri Reis was a famous Turkish cartographer, shipmaster, navigator and an researcher who was born in Gallipoli in 1465 and educated there.

He started working as a sailor at an early age under his uncle Kemal Reis' tutelage, a famous commander of the Ottoman navy, in the 16th century.
After the death of Kemal Reis in 1510, Piri Reis returned to Gallipoli and dedicated much of his time on his world map and his book, Kitab-ı Bahriye (Book of Navigation).

In 1517, Piri Reis participated in the Ottoman’s campaign to Egypt as one of the Ottoman navy admirals and presented his world map dated 1513 to Sultan Selim the Conqueror.

In his last mission, Piri Reis commanded an expedition against the Portuguese at Hormuz that failed in its goal of taking the citadel and executed in 1554 on the grounds of a debatable decision he had made as a commander to avoid direct confrontation with Portuguese navy.

WORKS

- First World Map of Piri Reis (1513)

- Second World Map of Piri Reis (1528)

- Kitab-ı Bahriye (1521–1526)
1513 - FIRST WORLD MAP of PİRİ REİS

Library of Topkapı Palace Museum

TS02K-Surveying History

9 Colours
5 Compass roses
2 Scale bars
20 Unknown
8 Muslims
1 Christopher Columbus
1 Arabic
4 Portugal
34 REFERENCE MAPS
This country is inhabited. The entire population goes naked.

These coasts are named the shores of Antilia. They were discovered in the year 896 (1513). But it is reported thus, that a Genoese infidel, his name is Columbus, he it was who discovered these places.

This country is a waste. Everything is in ruin and it is said that large snakes are found here. These are also said to be very hot.

This map was drawn by Piri ibn Haci Mehmet known as the nephew of Kemal Reis, in Gallipoli, in the month of Muharrem of the year 919 (9th March–7 April 1513).

1528 - SECOND WORLD MAP of PİRİ REİS

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On this map, some missing imaginary islands on the first map and the drawing of the America coasts more properly indicate that Piri Reis aimed to form a map which was more correct than the first one.

As a result of the innovation above, it is clearly understood that Piri Reis observed the new discovery voyages on these coasts made after Columbus and these observations were used on his map.
There are two editions of Kitab-ı Bahriye that date from 1521 (132 charts) and 1526 (210 charts), respectively.

Kitab-ı Bahriye is one of the leading works of the science of geography for Ottoman and world history as well as historical cartography in describing the islands and coasts of the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea for navigators.

Kitab-ı Bahriye is organized as four chapters.

1) Prologue part
2) Explanation for writing the book
3) Portolan charts with descriptive notes
4) Epilogue part
Piri Reis explains in Kitab-ı Bahriye,

- The purpose of writing the book
- The necessity of the oceanography for the sailors
- The necessary information for the ship management and equipment
- The names of the storms and the winds
- The definition and the usage of the compass and the map
- The signs of the map
- The names of the seas
The portolan charts collected in Kitab-ı Bahriye go around the entire coasts of the Mediterranean, proceeding in a systematic manner; Aegean Sea, Greece, Adriatic coasts, the Mediterranean coasts of Italy, France, Spain, North Africa and Egypt, the coasts of the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus, the Mediterranean and Aegean coasts of Anatolia, and the Gulf of Saros.

Besides the charts of the places he visited, Piri Reis also provides information about local ports, shore depths, possible anchoring points for vessels, vegetation, drinking water wells, mineral resources, archaeology, climate, social-economic structure, ethnic composition and religious beliefs.

The Kitab-ı Bahriye is an interesting and effective book of navigation-geography and an atlas of the Mediterranean Sea.
The coasts of Naples

City of Dubrovnik
Thank you for your attention

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