



The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake, 1628, frontispiece and title page

# THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED BY SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

(VOYAGE OF 1577-1580)

Compiled by Drake's nephew, Francis Drake, from the journal of the ship's chaplain, Frances Fletcher, and others; published 1628

Excerpts: Nova Albion (California), 1579

In December 1577 the Drake expedition departed England to sail west around the world, reaching the Pacific Ocean in eleven months after a calamitous sail through the Straits of Magellan. During the next year the *Golden Hind* sailed north along the continents' west coast as far north as Vancouver, partly in search of the elusive "northwest passage." Repelled by the cold weather they endured that far north, even in spring months, Drake and his crew turned south and anchored near San Francisco Bay in June 1579, remaining for five weeks to prepare for the long sail across the Pacific Ocean. There they met the native inhabitants, the Coastal Miwok.

## THE WORLD Encompassed

By Sir FRANCIS DRAKE, Being his next voyage to that to *Nombre de Dios* formerly imprinted;

Carefully collected out of the notes of Master FRANCIS FLETCHER Preacher in this imployment, and divers others his followers in the same:

Offered now at last to publique view, both for the honour of the actor, but especially for the stirring up of heroick spirits, to benefit their Countrey, and eternize their names by like noble attempts.



LONDON.

Printed for NICHOLAS BOVRNE and are to be sold at his shop at the Royall Exchange, 1628.

In 38 deg. 30 min. we fell with a convenient and fit harbor,<sup>1</sup> and June 17 came to anchor there, where we continued till the 23 day of July following. During all which time, notwithstanding it was in the height of summer, and so near the sun, yet were we continually visited with like nipping colds as we had felt before; insomuch that if violent exercises of our bodies, and busy employment about our necessary labors, had not sometimes compelled us to the contrary, we could very well have been contented to have kept about us still our winter clothes; yea (had our necessities suffered us) to have kept our beds; neither could we at any time, in whole fourteen days together, find the air so clear as to be able to take the height of sun or star [latitude].

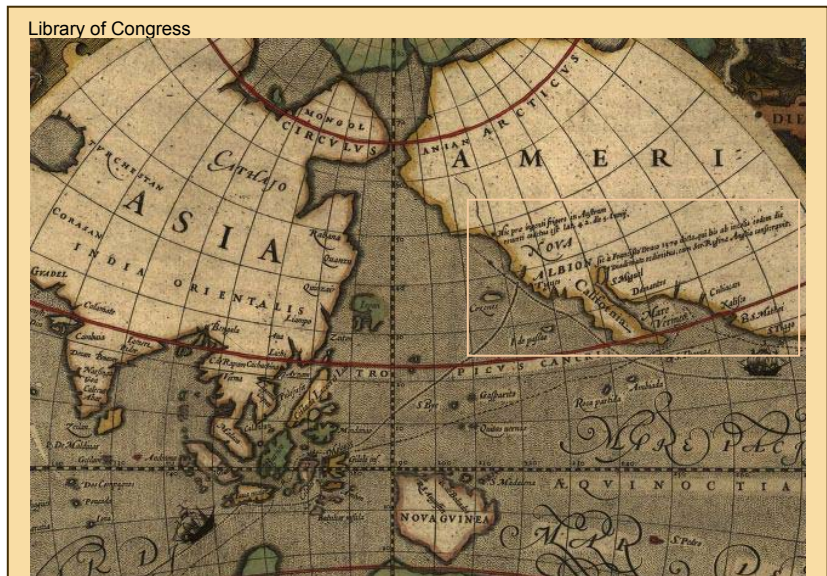
And here having so fit occasion (notwithstanding it may seem to be besides the purpose of writing the history of this our voyage), we will a little more diligently inquire into the causes of the continuance of the extreme cold in these parts, as also into the probabilities or unlikelihoods of a passage to be found that way. Neither was it (as has formerly been touched) the tenderness of our bodies, coming so lately out of the heat, whereby the pores were opened, that made us so sensible of the colds we here felt: in this respect, as in many others, we

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<sup>1</sup> It is generally agreed that the anchorage site is Drake's Bay (38°18') or Bodega Bay near Point Reyes, California. [Derek Wilson, *The World Encompassed: Francis Drake and His Great Voyage* (New York: Harper & Row, 1977), p. 155]

found our God a provident Father and careful Physician for us. . . .

As for the causes of this extremity, they seem not to be so deeply hidden but that they may, at least in part, be guessed at. The chiefest of which we conceive to be the large spreading of the Asian and American continent, which (somewhat Northward of these parts), if they be not fully joined, yet seem they to come



Jodocus Hondius, *Vera totius expeditionis nauticæ . . .*, ca. 1595, world map representing the circumnavigation routes of Francis Drake (1577-80) and Thomas Cavendish (1586-88), details



*Hic præ ingenti frigore in Austrum / reuerti coactus est lat. 42. die 5. Iunis.*

Here it was assembled by those who turned back because of the cold produced from the South at latitude 42 day 5 June

*Sic à Francisco Draco 1579 dicta, qui bis ab incolis codem Diademate redimitus, cam Ser. Reginæ Anglia consecravit.*

Thus the words of Francis Drake in 1579, twice crowned by the inhabitants with the diadem, who dedicated the book [journal] to the Most Serene Queen of England.

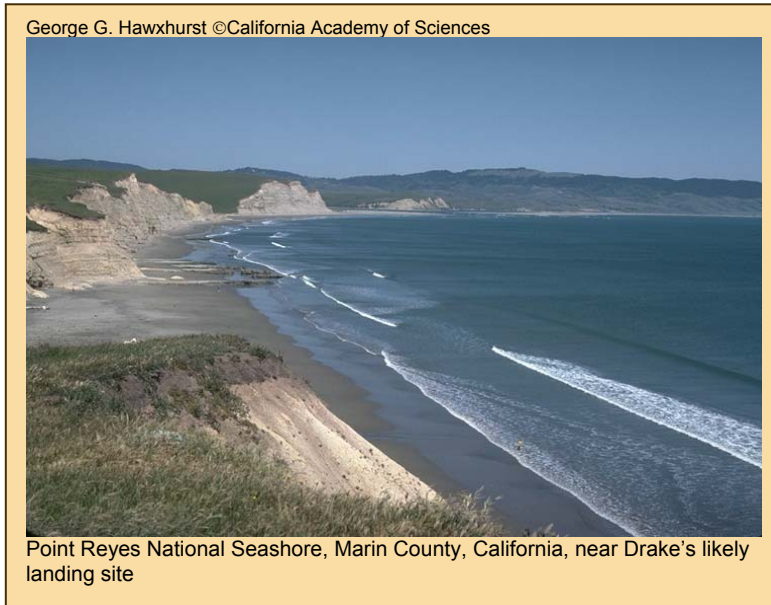
very near one to the other. From whose high and snow-covered mountains, the North and North-west winds (the constant visitants of those coasts) send abroad their frozen nymphs, to the infecting the whole air with this insufferable sharpness: not permitting the Sun, no, not in the pride of his heat, to dissolve that congealed matter and snow, which they have breathed out so nigh the Sun, and so many degrees distant from themselves. And that the North and North-west winds are here constant in June and July, as the North wind alone is in August and September, we not only found it by our own experience, but were fully confirmed in the opinion thereof, by the continued observations of the Spaniards. Hence comes the general squalidness and barrenness of the country; hence comes it, that in the midst of their summer, the snow hardly departs even from their very doors, but is never taken away from their hills at all; hence come those thick mists and most stinking fogs, which increase so much the more, by how much higher the pole is raised: wherein a blind pilot is a good as the best director of a course. . . .

And also from these reasons we conjecture, that either there is no passage at all through these Northern coasts (which is most likely), or if there be, that yet it is unnavigable. Add here, that though we searched

the coast diligently, even unto the 48 deg., yet found we not the land to trend so much as one point in any place towards the East, but rather running on continually North-west, as if it went directly to meet with Asia . . .

The next day, after our coming to anchor in the aforesaid harbor, the people of the country showed themselves, sending off a man with great expedition to us in a canoe. Who being yet but a little from the shore, and a great way from our ship, spoke to us continually as he came rowing on. And at last at a reasonable distance staying himself, he began more solemnly a long and tedious oration, after his manner: using in the delivery thereof many gestures and signs, moving his hands, turning his head and body many ways; and after his oration ended, with great show of reverence and submission returned back to shore again.

He shortly came again a second time in like manner, and so the third time, when he brought with him (as a present from the rest) a bunch of feathers, much like the feathers of a black crow, very neatly and artificially gathered upon a string, and drawn together into a round bundle; being very clean and finely cut, and bearing in length an equal proportion one with another; a special cognizance (as we afterwards observed) which they that guard their king's person wear on their heads. With this also he brought a little basket made of rushes, and filled with an herb which they called *Tabáh*. Both which being tied to a short rod, he cast into our boat. Our General [Drake] intended to have recompensed him immediately with many good things he would have bestowed on him; but entering into the boat to deliver the same, he could not be drawn to receive them by any means, save one hat, which being cast into the water out of the ship, he took up (refusing utterly to meddle with any other thing, though it were upon a board put off to him) and so presently made his return. After which time our boat could row no way, but wondering at us as at gods, they would follow the same with admiration.



The 3 day following, viz., the 21, our ship having received a leak at sea, was brought to anchor nearer the shore, that, her goods being landed, she might be repaired; but for that we were to prevent any danger that might chance against our safety, our General first of all landed his men, with all necessary provision, to build tents and make a fort for the defense of our selves and goods: and that we might under the shelter of it with more safety (whatever should befall) end our business; which when the people of the country perceived us doing, as men set on fire to war in defense of their country, in great haste and companies, with such weapons as they had, they came down to us, and yet with no hostile

meaning or intent to hurt us: standing, when they drew near, as men ravished in their minds, with the sight of such things as they never had seen or heard of before that time: their errand being rather with submission and fear to worship us as Gods, then to have any war with us as with mortal men. Which thing, as it did partly show itself at that instant, so did it more and more manifest itself afterwards, during the whole time of our abode among them. At this time, being willed by signs to lay from them their bows and arrows, they did as they were directed, and so did all the rest, as they came more and more by companies unto them, growing in a little while to a great number, both of men and women.

To the intent, therefore, that this peace which they themselves so willingly sought might, without any cause of the breach thereof on our part given, be continued, and that we might with more safety and expedition end our businesses in quiet, our General, with all his company, used all means possible gently to entreat them, bestowing upon each of them liberally good and necessary things to cover their nakedness; withall signifying unto them we were no Gods, but men, and had need of such things to cover our own shame; teaching them to use them to the same ends, for which cause also we did eat and drink in their presence, giving them to understand that without that we could not live, and therefore were but men as well as they.

Notwithstanding nothing could persuade them, nor remove that opinion which they had conceived of us, that we should be Gods.

In recompense of those things which they had received of us, as shirts, linen cloth, etc., they bestowed upon our General, and diverse of our company, diverse things, as feathers, cauls of network, the quivers of their arrows, made of fawn skins, and the very skins of beasts that their women wore upon their bodies. Having thus had their fill of this time's visiting and beholding of us, they departed with joy to their houses. . . .

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Sweathouse

Kule Loklo, reconstructed Coastal Miwok village  
Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, California



Traditional dwellings (kotchas), made of redwood or tule

As soon as they were returned to their houses, they began among themselves a kind of most lamentable weeping and crying out; which they continued also a great while together, in such sort that in the place where they left us (being near about 3 quarters of an English mile distant from them) we very plainly, with wonder and admiration, did hear the same, the women especially extending their voices in a most miserable and doleful manner of shrieking.

Notwithstanding this humble manner of presenting themselves, and awful demeanor used towards us, we thought it no wisdom too far to trust them (our experience of former Infidels dealing with us before, made us careful to provide against an alteration of their affections or breach of peace if it should happen), and therefore with all expedition we set up our tents, and entrenched ourselves with walls of stone; that so being fortified within ourselves, we might be able to keep off the enemy (if they should so prove) from coming among us without our good wills: this being quickly finished, we went the more cheerfully and securely afterward about our other business. . . .

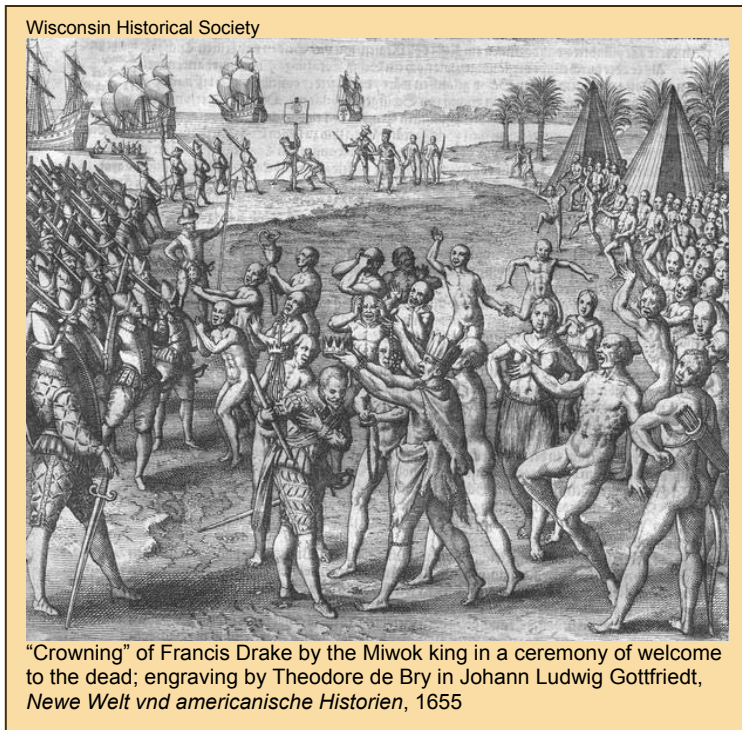
Against the end of three days more (the news having the while spread itself farther, and as it seemed a great way up into the country), were assembled the greatest number of people which we could reasonably imagine to dwell within any convenient distance round about. Among the rest the king

himself, a man of goodly stature and comely personage, attended with his guard of about 100 tall and warlike men, this day, viz., June 26, came down to see us. . . .

. . . they made signs to our General to have him sit down; unto whom both the king and divers others made several orations, or rather, indeed, if we had understood them, supplications, that he would take the Province and kingdom into his hand, and become their king and patron: making signs that they would resign unto him their right and title in the whole land, and become his vassals in themselves and their posterity: which that they might make us indeed believe that it was their true meaning and intent, the king himself, with all the rest, with one consent and with great reverence, joyfully singing a song, set the crown upon his head, enriched his neck with all their chains, and offering to him many other things, honored him by the name of *Hyóh*. Adding thereunto (as it might seem) a song and dance of triumph; because they were not only visited of the gods (for so they still judged us to be), but the great and chief God was now become their God, their king and patron, and themselves were become the only happy and blessed people in the world.

Wherefore, in the name and to the use of her most excellent majesty, he [Drake] took the scepter, crown, and dignity of the said country into his hand; wishing nothing more than that it had lain so fitly for her majesty to enjoy, as it was now her proper own, and that the riches and treasures thereof (wherewith in the upland countries it abounds) might with as great convenience be transported, to the enriching of her kingdom here at

home, as it is in plenty to be attained there; and especially that so tractable and loving a people as they showed themselves to be, might have means to have manifested their most willing obedience the more to her, and by her means, as a mother and nurse of the Church of Christ, might by the preaching of the Gospel, be brought to the right knowledge and obedience of the true and everliving God.



"Crowning" of Francis Drake by the Miwok king in a ceremony of welcome to the dead; engraving by Theodore de Bry in Johann Ludwig Gottfriedt, *Neue Welt vnd americanische Historien*, 1655

The ceremonies of this resigning and receiving of the kingdom being thus performed, the common sort, both of men and women, leaving the king and his guard about him, with our General, dispersed themselves among our people, taking a diligent view or survey of every man; and finding such as pleased their fancies (which commonly were the youngest of us), they presently enclosing them about offered their sacrifices unto them, crying out with lamentable shrieks and moans, weeping and scratching and tearing their very flesh off their faces with their nails; neither were it the women alone which did this, but even old men, roaring and crying out, were as violent as the women were.

We groaned in spirit to see the power of Satan so far prevail in seducing these so harmless souls, and labored by all means, both by showing our great dislike, and when that served not, by violent

withholding of their hands from that madness, directing them (by our eyes and hands lift up towards heaven) to the living God whom they ought to serve; but so mad were they upon their Idolatry, that forcible withholding them would not prevail (for as soon as they could get liberty to their hands again, they would be as violent as they were before) till such time, as they whom they worshiped were conveyed from them into the tents, whom yet as men besides themselves, they would with fury and outrage seek to have again.

After that time had a little qualified their madness, they then began to show and make known unto us their griefs and diseases which they carried about them; some of them having old aches, some shrunk sinews, some old sores and cankered ulcers, some wounds more lately received, and the like; in most lamentable manner craving help and cure thereof from us; making signs, that if we did but blow upon their griefs, or but touched the diseased places, they would be whole.

Their griefs we could not but take pity on them, and to our power desire to help them: but that (if it pleased God to open their eyes) they might understand we were but men and no gods, we used ordinary means, as lotions, emplanters, and unguents, most fitly (as far as our skills could guess) agreeing to the natures of their griefs, beseeching God, if it made for his glory, to give cure to their diseases by these means. The like we did from time to time as they resorted to us. . . .

They are a people of a tractable, free, and loving nature, without guile or treachery; their bows and arrows (their only weapons, and almost all their wealth), they use very skillfully, but yet not to do any great harm with them, being by reason of their weakness more fit for children than for men, sending the arrows neither far off nor with any great force and yet are the men commonly so strong of body, that that which 2 or 3 of our men could hardly bear, one of them would take upon his back, and without grudging carry it easily away, uphill and downhill an English mile together: they are also exceeding swift in running, and of long continuance, the use whereof is so familiar with them, that they seldom go, but for the most part run. . . .

This country our General named *Albion*, and that for two causes; the one in respect of the white banks and cliffs, which lie toward the sea; the other, that it might have some affinity, even in name also, with our own country, which was sometime so called.

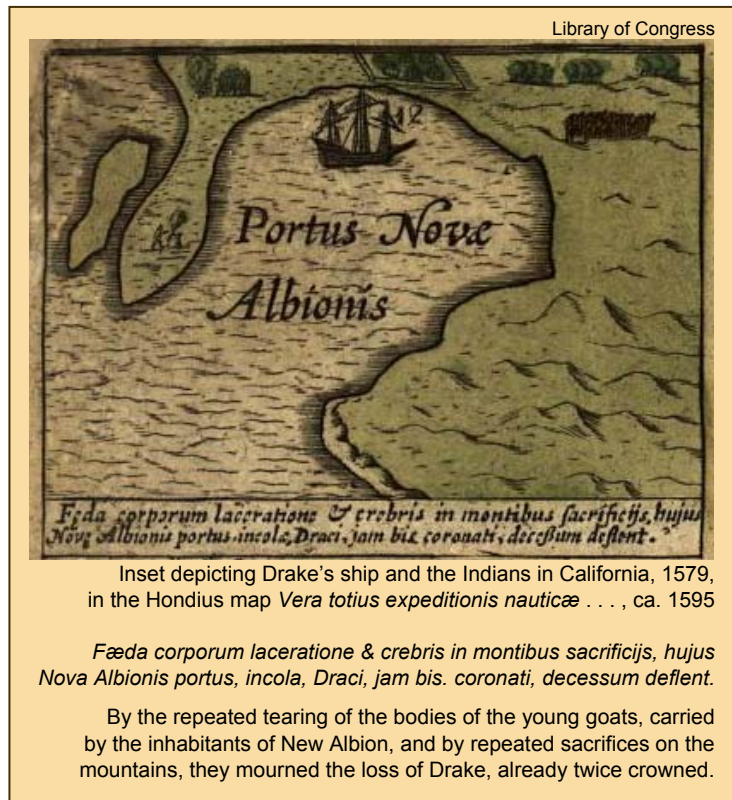
Before we went from there, our General caused to be set up a monument of our being there, as also of her majesty's and successors' right and title to that kingdom; namely, a plate of brass, fast nailed to a great and firm post; whereon is engraved her grace's name, and the day and year of our arrival there, and of the free giving up of the province and kingdom, both by the king and people, into her majesty's hands: together with her highness's picture and arms, in a piece of sixpence current English money, showing itself by a hole made of purpose through the plate; underneath was likewise engraved the name of our General, etc.

The Spaniards never had any dealing, or so much as set a foot in this country, the utmost of their discoveries reaching only to many degrees Southward of this place.

And now, as the time of our departure was perceived by them to draw nigh, so did the sorrows and miseries of this people seem to themselves to increase upon them, and the more certain they were of our going away, the more doubtful they showed themselves what they might do; so that we might easily judge that that joy (being exceeding great) wherewith they received us at our first arrival, was clean drowned in their excessive sorrow for our departing. For they did not only lose on a sudden all mirth, joy, glad countenance, pleasant speeches, agility of body, familiar rejoicing one with another, and all pleasure whatever flesh and blood might be delighted in, but with sighs and sorrowings, with heavy hearts and grieved minds, they poured out woeful complaints and moans, with bitter tears and wringing of their hands, tormenting themselves. And as men refusing all comfort, they only accounted themselves as castaways, and those whom the gods were about to forsake: so that nothing we could say or do, was able to ease them of their so heavy a burthen, or to deliver them from so desperate a strait, as our leaving of them did seem to them that it would cast them into. . . .

The 23 of July they took a sorrowful farewell of us, but being loath to leave us, they presently ran to the top of the hills to keep us in their sight as long as they could, making fires before and behind, and on each side of them, burning therein (as is to be supposed) sacrifices at our departure.

Not far without this harbor did lie certain Islands (we called them the Islands of Saint James), having on them plentiful and great store of seals and birds, with one of which we fell July 24, where we found such provision as might competently serve our turn for a while. We departed again the day next following, viz., July 25. And our General now considering that the extremity of the cold not only continued, but increased, the Sun being gone farther from us, and that the wind blowing still (as it did at first) from the Northwest, cut off all hope of finding a passage through these Northern parts, thought it necessary to lose no time; and therefore with general consent of all, bent his course directly to run with the Islands of the Moluccas.



Inset depicting Drake's ship and the Indians in California, 1579, in the Hondius map *Vera totius expeditionis nauticæ* . . . , ca. 1595

*Fæda corporum laceratione & crebris in montibus sacrificijs, hujus Nova Albionis portus incola, Draci, jam bis coronati, decessum deflent.*

By the repeated tearing of the bodies of the young goats, carried by the inhabitants of New Albion, and by repeated sacrifices on the mountains, they mourned the loss of Drake, already twice crowned.