In 1572 an *Isolario* or island book, written by Tommaso Porcacchi, was published in Venice, illustrated with a lovely series of thirty elegant maps set within the text:

Venetia; Corfv; Morea Penisola; Candia; Cipro; Rhodi; Arcipelago; Negroponte; Sicilia; Malta; Corsica; Sardegna; Elba; Maiorica; Minorica; Inghilterra; Scotia; Irlanda; Hollanda; Islanda; Gotlandia; Spagnvola; Cvba; S. Lorenzo (Madagascar); Taprobana (not Ceylon but Sumatra, which is on the equator); Isole Molvcche; Mondo Nvovo; Temistitan (now Mexico City); oval world (see below); Atlantic chart (see Introduction 8).



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Uniform in size and style with most titles in ornate cartouches, they were all very finely engraved by Girolamo Porro of Padua. He was also joint publisher of the book and produced seventeen additional new plates to illustrate the second edition:

Isole Hebride, et Orcade; Isole Selandie; Il sito de'Cvrzolari; Battle of Lepanto; Cefalonia; Zante; Cerigo; Scarpanto; Santorini; Milo; Nicsia; Scio; Metellino (Lesbos); Costantinopoli; Stalimene (Lemnos); Iamaica; S. Giovanni (Puerto Rico).

From the 1576 edition the sequence of the maps is completely different: the European ones commencing with Iceland in the north-west and finishing with Cyprus in the south-east. A new map of Istria added in 1604 is twice the size and not by Porro.



All the plates were worn by 1620 and then retouched without Porro's finesse, in order to strengthen the outlines for the scarce 1686 edition. In this second state they are in the same order but have plain backs, whereas in their final appearance they are once again set within text, together with many other early Italian plates (see 1595).

L'Isole piu famose del mondo. Venice, Simon Galignani & Girolamo Porro, 1572, 1576; heirs of Simon Galignani, 1590, 1604, 1605; Padua, Paolo & Francesco Galignani, 1620; Venice, Pietro Antonio Brigonci, 1686.

Universus terrarum orbis. Padua, J. Baptist Conzatti, 1713.



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