



Portolan Chart

Cartographer: Vesconte Maggiolo

Date: 1516

Size: 102 x 155 cm

DESCRIPTION: World chart, from eastern coasts of America to India. Red border at top edged by black band that continues around left side, no borders on bottom or right. Black and red ink for nomenclature in a minuscule hand with area names in gothic script; American coast, Scotland, and England outlined in color (very faded), other land masses in black ink only; 10 compass roses with usual 32 rhumb line network in black, red and green ink for the principal directions; latitude scale numbered from 40° S to 67° N, no longitude; four unnumbered scales of distance; decorated with imaginary animals, kings in pavillions, vignettes of cities, banners, three wind-heads, and a large medallion of the Virgin and Child. Unbound: formerly rolled, now flattened and kept in a modern case. Inscribed "Vesconte de Maiollo ianuense," Naples, 7 May 1516.



Detail: Northern Africa



Detail: Nile River



Detail: Carribbean Region, with medallion of the Virgin and Child

Bibliography:

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S. De Ricci, with the assistance of W. H. Wilson, *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada* (New York 1935-37; index 1940)

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