

Kelsey, Harry

Juan Rodríguez Cibrión

San Marino: Huntington Library
Press, 1986 (1988).

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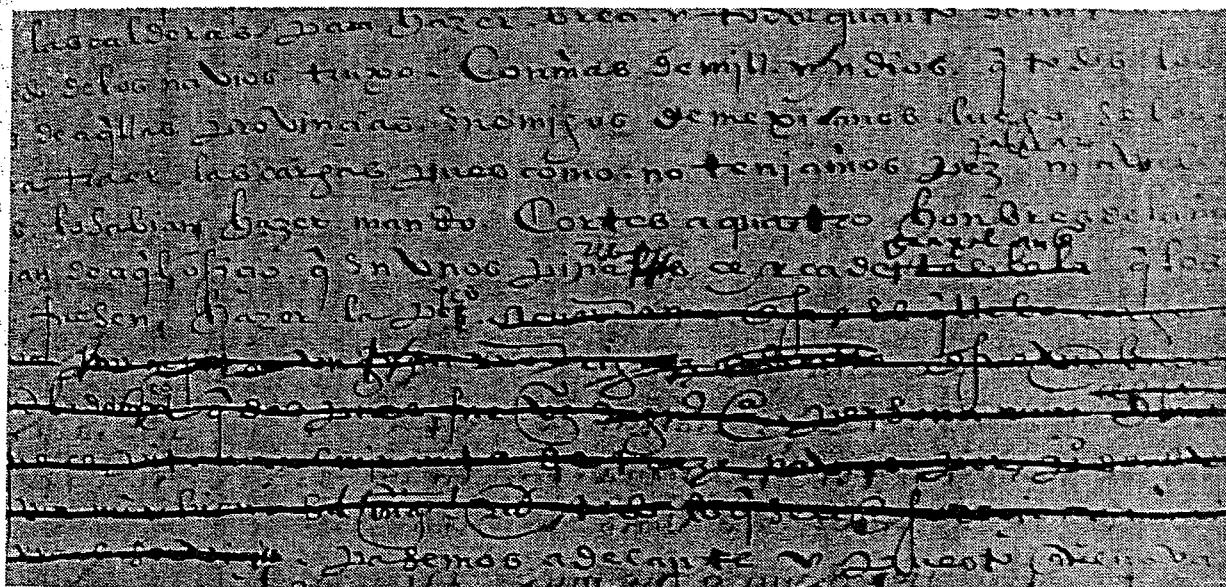
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es for recapturing the Mexican capital. Indian bearers were required just to carry inland.⁴³

everything necessary for building a fleet: pieces of iron and long threaded bolts to fasten the timbers together; anchors, sails, and rigging; tow and cables; and the hammers, saws, augers, chisels, and other tools needed for building ships. Experienced blacksmiths and even one man who was "half a blacksmith" were assigned to work in the forge. From the ships themselves came huge cauldrons for melting pitch. Vast battalions of Indians were assigned to cut timber. While this work was yet under way, Cortés decided to move the army and the shipyard to Texcoco, where the lake was close and the town easily defended.⁴⁴

Indians did not know how to harvest resin and prepare it for use in caulking the ships. Therefore, Cortés selected four seamen who knew the process, assigned them a cuadrilla of Indian slaves, and sent them to the pine forests near Huexotzingo. Juan Rodríguez was the man in charge of the operation.⁴⁵

In a section of the *Historia Verdadera*, that was probably written



**H. English translation of the excerpt above,
mentioning Cabrillo by Maurice G. Holmes.**

**“I remember that the man who had
charge of and went as captain was one
Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, who was a good
soldier in the Mexican campaign, who
later was a resident of Guatemala, a very
honorable person, and he was captain and
admiral of thirteen ships in Pedro de
Alvarado’s behalf and he served His
Majesty very well in everything which
presented itself to him, and died in his
royal service.” (41-42)**

Source:

**Holmes, Maurice G. *From New Spain by Sea
to the Californias*. Vol. 9 of the Spain in the
West series. Glendale, CA: Arthur H. Clark
Co., 1963.**

CONQUISTADORES Y POBLADORES DE NUEVA ESPAÑA

DICCIONARIO AUTOBIOGRÁFICO
SACADO DE LOS TEXTOS ORIGINALES
POR FRANCISCO A. DE ICAZA

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VOLUMEN I

QUISTADORES Y

esce neçesidad y sino fue-
en buenas personas, sería

dize

de Ayoleco, y natural de Vi-
legítimo de Pedro Albarrazín
ha beynte y quatro años que
en el armada de Garay, y que
en las paçificaçiones del peñol
s, donde fué alférez, y nombra
re que anduuo, e ques hijodalgo
y sus armas y cauallo.

MIGUEL, dize

udad de Guaxaca, e natural de la
o de Hernando de San Myguel y
hijosdalgo, e que ha dose años que
a, e que es casado y tiene muger
ad de Guaxaca, y no declara quán-
con sus armas y cauillos, e nunca
ayuda, ny tiene de qué se sustentar.

IEZ, dize

a ciudad y natural de Fuenlabrada, e
Rodríguez y de Catalina Muñoz, e
pasó a esta Nueva Spaña, e seys
yna hija, e que siruió a Su Mage-
n hombre en la húltima paçificaçión

POBLADORES DE NUEVA ESPAÑA

de la Nueva Galizia, y tiene su casa poblada con sus ar-
mas y cauillos.

615.—FRANCISCO DE MEDINA, dize

Que es vezino desta ciudad e natural de la de Badajoz,
e hijo legítimo de García de los rrios y de Ysabel de Me-
dina, e que ha seys años que pasó a esta Nueva Spaña, con
su casa, muger e hijos, e suegra, e que siruió a Su Mage-
stad en la húltima paçificaçión de la Nueva Galizia, y en este
tiempo ha tenydo cargos de justiçia, de los quales ha dado
buena quemia, y siempre ha sustentado armas e cauillo, y
es pobre y padesce neçesidad.

616.—ANDRÉS LÓPEZ, dize

Que rreside en las mynas de Çultepec, y que es natural
de vn pueblo que se dize Villanueva, que es en el valle de
Tobalina, e hijo legítimo de Andrés López de Qéspedes e
de Mari Gómez de Salazar, e quel dicho su padre y sus
antepasados, sienpre siruieron a la corona rreal de Casti-
lla, e quel ha dezinueve años que pasó a esta Nueva Spa-
ña e siruió a Su Magestad en la húltima paçificaçión de la
Nueba Galizia, y que es casado con hija de Francisco Gó-
mez, y tiene yntento de permanecer en esta tierra.

617.—DIEGO DE AGLILAR, dize

Que es vezino desta cibdad, y rreside en las mynas de
Çultepec, e natural de la villa de Medina del Campo, e hijo
legítimo de Alonso de Aguilar y de Mari Gutiérrez de Santan-
der, e que ha más de beynte e doss años que pasó con Pe-

(28)

ACADEMIA DE MARINHA

CABRILLO'S NATIONALITY

BY
F. CASTELO BRANCO

com texto em português



IN the *Historia General de los Hechos de los Castellanos en Islas y Tierra Fire del Mar Oceano*, «written by Ant3nio de Herrera, Coronista Mayor de Su Magestad de las Yndias y Coronista de Castilla», (*) published in Madrid between 1601 and 1615, it is said that:



*Enos se descuy
daua don An-
tonio de Men-
doça de las co-
sas de la mar,
porque no obs-
tante, que los
nauios, que a-
uia embiado a*

*descubrir la costa de nueua España de
la parte del Sur, auiam padecido mu-
cho, queria en todo caso saber lo que
auia adelante, y para ello mandô aper-
cebir dos nauios, y nombrô por Ca-
pitan dellos a Iuan Rodriguez Cabri-
llo*

*llo Portugues, persona muy platica en
las cosas de la mar. El vn nauio se nõ-
braua san Saluador, que era la Capi-
tana, y el otro la Vitoria; yua por Pi-
loto mayor Bartolome Ferrer, y tam-
bien por Piloto Bartolome Fern3ndez
y por Mastres Antonio Carrera y S.
Rento. (1) (**)*

(*) Chief Chronicler of His Majesty of the Indias and Chronicler of Castille.

(1) First edition, Madrid, 1615, pp. 112-113, seventh decade, book V, chapter III. The transcription is linear. The copy consulted is that of the Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa, whose reference is Res. 982 V.

(**) «D. Antonio de Mendonça was less negligent of things of the sea, for
withstanding the great suffering of the ships he had sent to discover the) of



António de Herrera made the statement *Iuan Rodrigues Cabrillo Portuguez* in the Seventh Decade of his *Historia General*, of which the title page of the first edition is shown here

We know of no document or person who has attributed to Rodrigues Cabrillo any nationality other than the Portuguese. To the navigator, this indication may be omitted, nationality has ever been attributed to him. Furthermore, it is not that any ancient author has ever challenged or doubted the explicit declaration of Herrera:

Iuan Rodriguez Cabrillo Portugues.

What value can we attach to this peremptory statement, the value which its author possesses, and the credibility given to his historical work.

Is Herrera one of those historians whose work contains a mixture of truth and falsehood? In which text are there narrations of truth and inventions concerning the unknown? Was his access to sources incomplete? It is just that is true. In the fulfillment of his tasks as «Coronista Mayor y Coronista de Castilla», posts to which he was assigned in 1561, many years went by before the appearance of his *Historia General* which the first volume was published in 1601 and the first edition but he was in close contact with the official documentation. It has been said that Herrera *dispuso de abundante documentación* precisely for this work, *dispuso para su laboriosa composición diecinueve años, de 1596 a 1615 — de constante ayuda otorgada en subvenciones para los gastos y el acceso a numerosos archivos, comenzando por la Cámara del rey.* (2)

And, as an historian with access to abundant and trustworthy sources, he was also, in the opinion of Professor Ramon Ezquerro, *exacto en pormenores.* (3) (****) This author of the article on

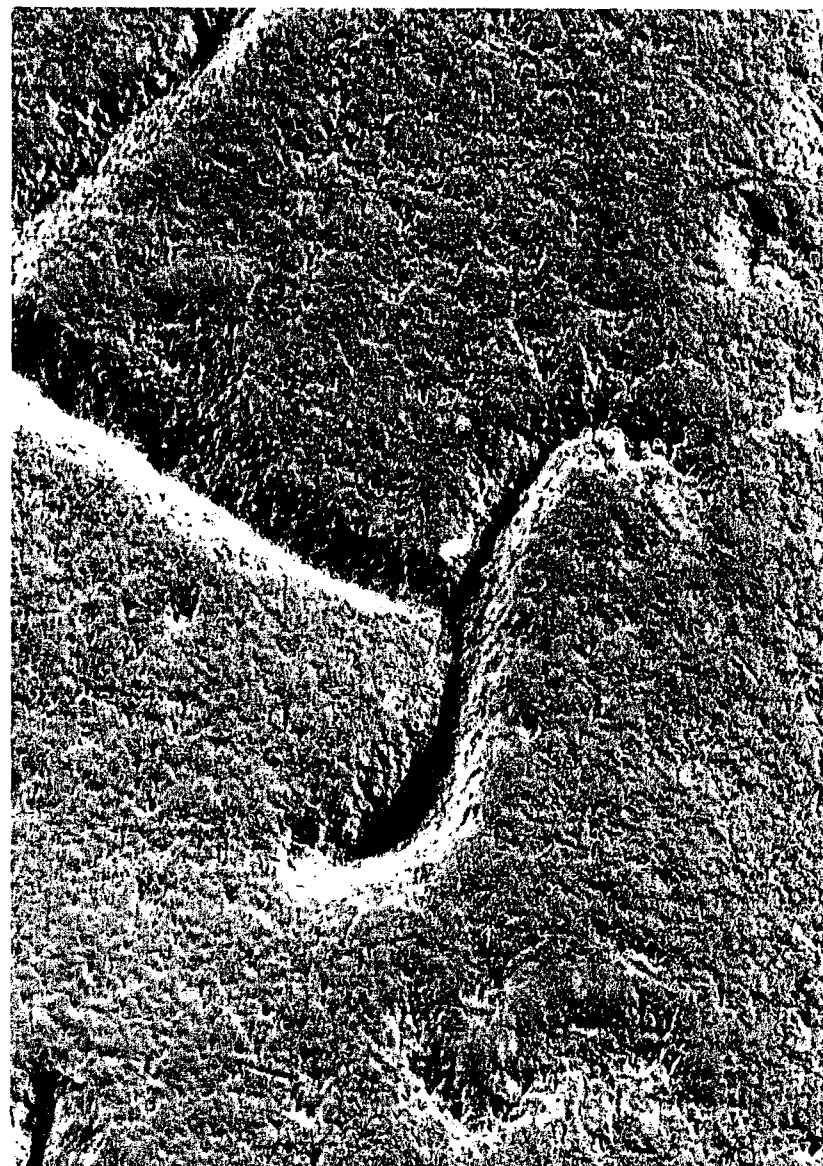
New Spain, in its southern part, he persisted in his desire to know the truth and sent them there to find out, naming as their Captain Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo Portugues, a person well versed in things of the sea. One ship, the San Salvador and the other Vitoria, with Bartolomeu Fernandes and also as Pilot Bartolomeu Fernandes and as Sailing Masters S. Renon.

(2) *Diccionario de Historia de España*, 2nd Edition, 1981, vol. 10, p. 100.

(3) *Idem*, vol. II, p. 352. (****) exact and prolific in details.



Engraved letters on the presumed tombstone of João Rodrigues Cabrillo.
 Photograph of the reproduction which exists in the Museu de Marinha, in Lisboa.
 (Maritime Museum, Lisbon)



Detail of the engraved letters on the presumed tombstone of João Rodrigues Cabrillo.
 Photograph of the reproduction which exists in the Museu de Marinha, in Lisboa.
 (Maritime Museum, Lisbon). It is evident that the letter which is attached to the
 capital *R* is a small *s*. The letters on the stone are therefore *JRs*. This justifies
 the hypothesis that the name of the navigator was abbreviated according to the
 Portuguese spelling Rodrigues and not to the Spanish Rodrigu which is justified
 since he was of Portuguese nationality. The reading *JRC* is to be rejected