

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE  
COASTS OF EAST AFRICA AND  
MALABAR: IN THE BEGINNING  
OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY**

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A Description of the Coasts of East Africa and Malabar: In the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century by Duarte Barbosa & Henry E. J. Stanley

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**DUARTE BARBOSA & HENRY E. J. STANLEY**

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EAST AFRICA AND MALABAR.

M.DCCC.LXVI.

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A DESCRIPTION  
OF THE COASTS OF  
**EAST AFRICA AND MALABAR**

IN THE BEGINNING OF  
THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY,

BY  
DUARTE BARBOSA,

A PORTUGUESE.

TRANSLATED FROM  
AN EARLY SPANISH MANUSCRIPT IN THE BARCELONA LIBRARY

WITH NOTES AND A PREFACE,

BY  
THE HON. HENRY E. J. STANLEY.



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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

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THE Spanish manuscript from which this volume has been translated is in the handwriting of the beginning of 1500, full of abbreviations, and without punctuation or capital letters at the beginnings of sentences or for the proper names, which adds much to the difficulty of reading it. It contains eighty-seven leaves. The handwriting more resembles an example of the year 1510 than those dated 1529 and 1531, given at p. 319 of the "Escuela de Leer Letras Cursivas Antiguas y Modernas desde la entrada de los Godos en España, por el P. Andres Merino de Jesu Christo, Madrid, 1780." This work was translated into Spanish from the original Portuguese in 1524, at Vittoria, by Martin Centurion, ambassador of the community of Genoa, with the assistance of Diego Ribero, a Portuguese, cosmographer and hydrographer to his Majesty Charles V. There are reasons (as will be shewn in the notes) for supposing that the Spanish translation, probably this copy and not the Portuguese original, assisted the compilers of the early atlases, especially that of Abraham Ortelius, of Antwerp, 1570, other editions of which were published in succeeding years.<sup>1</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> I have been informed by Mr. Winter Jones that Diego Ribero drew up a map of the world in 1529, of which Sprengel