

# The Philippines rutter

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This rutter is included in the order in which it is found in Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional, ms. 3212. However, this is clearly anachronistic since between 1606 and 1610, de los Ríos was in Spain. There seems to be a consistent error of writing ‘G’ instead of ‘leg[uas]’ in the first part of this rutter, which I have changed to ‘[leagues]’.

[Continuation from middle of f. 83r]

## Account<sup>1</sup> of part of the Philippines by Licenciado de los Rios.

Started from the mouth of the River Tubigan<sup>2</sup> on the east coast from Manila and ran by the point of Galvan [Bantigui Point, Batangas (13°45′N, 120°28′E)] and it lies from the south to the west.— 30 [leagues]

A high point at the head of the island of Marinduque had dominated from Tubigan runs from east to south — 50 [leagues]

The furthest land was Calilaja<sup>3</sup> from the same island to the same part — 40<sup>4</sup>

The other point of the island is to Vanton [12°56′N, 122°3′E, Banton Island in Romblon] in the same part 66 [leagues].

The point of Damorin [13°6′N, 121°33′E, Dumali Point] of the island of Mindoro from the south to the west — 10 [leagues].

### 2<sup>nd</sup> station

From Calilaya [Unisan] the point of Galvan runs from the west to the south — 6 [leagues] and the said point of Galvan with that of the islets of Polo more

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<sup>1</sup>The original word is *demarcação* which indicates giving an account of the various landmarks. See O’Scanlan, compiler 1831, pp. 357–58.

<sup>2</sup>The confluence of rivers around Lucena City (13°53′N, 120°53′E), and therefore from the mouth of the Tayabas river. This river flows with a number of others into a delta.

<sup>3</sup>13°50′N, 121°58′E, now called Unisan, Quezon.

<sup>4</sup>The distance is about 20km which is about the limit visible from the crow’s nest of a ship at sea. 30m high gives 20 km, 25 gives 17 km, 35 gives 24 km.

to the sea. It lies from the south to the west— 50 [leagues] [f. 83v] and these islands with Tubigan form a great bay and another island which is in front of the point of Calilaya.

Galvan runs with these Islands de Polo [ $13^{\circ}30'N$ ,  $122^{\circ}7'E$ , Santa Cruz Island, Maniuayan Island and Mompog Island] in the same part — 40 [leagues]. and the point of the Islands de Polo from Calilaya lie from west to north— 28 [leagues].

From the point of Calilaya from these two small islets as far as the other point which is in front of the end of Marinduque. From the east an islet runs northwest-southeast [ $13^{\circ}24'N$ ,  $22^{\circ}8'E$ , Salomague Island]. And from this point [repeated word] from there is a bay 1 league  $\frac{1}{2}$  and the bay spreads out some more, and from the end of the bay as far as the said point in front of Marinduque is 4 leagues. And from this last point which is in front of the end of Marinduque the Island of Vanton [Banton] runs northeast southwest and distant 10 leagues. And from the said point lies an islet which is between the land of Marinduque northeast southwest a quarter-point from north-south and it opens 6 leagues until Marinduque. In the middle is the said islet.

Next the land of the island turns making a great arc and it stands until a point which is near Bondo [ $13^{\circ}9'N$ ,  $122^{\circ}35'E$ , Bondoc Pt.] and it runs y northwest-southeast a quarter-point from north-south and it opens y 7 leagues.

From the point of Bondo the isle of de Vanton [Banton] runs from the south to the west 62 [leagues] and the other point to Marinduque 75 [leagues] in the same part. There is an islet at the point of Marinduque, which is called Vantonillo [Bantonillo]: half a league.

From here the the last land of Marinduque has Vanton at 8 [leagues] in the said part.

[f. 84r] It is open as far as Vanton 6 leagues and to Marinduque 10 leagues. The other point of Marinduque to Calilaya lies from west to north — 30 [leagues].

From here the Island of Bucaigan [ $13^{\circ}31'N$ ,  $122^{\circ}11'E$ , Mompog Island] lies from the south to the west 32 [leagues].

Another island called Donblon [ $12^{\circ}33'N$ ,  $122^{\circ}7'E$ , Romblon] lies from here from south to west 10 [leagues] at a distance of 12 leagues.

From the point of Bondo to the other point beyond from which part the bay of Capiragua [?] is distant 2 leagues northeast southwest a quarter-point from the east to the west, and it makes a sort of arc. There is a river [??] half a league away and another another league further on.

From this point the island of Bancaso [unidentified] [runs] east-west barely 4 leagues [away].

The point of Burias to Masbate runs with this point from east to south 36 [leagues].

The last point [Aguja Point] of Burias [ $12^{\circ}57'N$ ,  $123^{\circ}08'E$ ] which Ticao [ $12^{\circ}31'N$ ,  $123^{\circ}42'E$ ] with the island of Masbate at the beginning goes northeast southwest a quarter-point from east-west distant 5 leagues and the land comes running to Ticao in such a way that nearest point of Burias, from the land of Masbate is a distance of 2 leagues  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

All the island of Burias runs turning together in the part that looks at Masbate northwest-southeast making several bays although with many deeps. It is 13 leagues wide.

From this point of Burias further lies Ticao the head of which is near some islets [12°43'N, 123°36'E, San Miguel Island and its neighbours], the chief of these to the north; northwest-southwest a quarter-point from north-south, and the last [f. 84v] of these islands, north-south, distant 5 leagues across. Ticao runs northwest-southeast. It is 6 leagues away from Masbate. And from the last point of Ticao, the land of the *embocadero* [San Bernardino Strait], the last [runs] northeast-southwest distant 8 leagues.

From here the two Naranjos islands [12°22'N, 124°1'E] run east-west to the northeast up to the east-northeast a distance of 4 leagues to the point of the island 3<sup>a</sup>3.

Capul [Island, 12°35'N, 124°10'E, due east of Masbate city] lies off an Islet which is next to this point of Ticao a quarter of a league, it goes to the south east-west a quarter-point from northwest-southeast distant 10 leagues.

From here it runs to the coast of Masbatecorre desde aqui ala costa de Masbate where<sup>5</sup> some north-south islets distant 1 league  $\frac{1}{2}$  and a strong current and a rock in the middle sticking out a lot towards Ticao.

Then Masbate runs as far as a little island called Bocton [11°52'N, 124°5'E, Bugtong Island at the SE corner of Masbate].

From Vocton the island of Bogenbon [11°34'N, 124°30'E, Biliran] lies from the south to the east 40 [leagues] and 8 leagues away.

The isle of Panamao [? 11°55'N, 124°18'E, Almagro] in the same part 52 [leagues], a distance of 6 leagues.

The last point of Masbate towards Abu [??] to the south [is] 2 leagues.

Limanraguian [12°4'N, 124°12'E, Tagapula Island ] to the north a quarter-point to the northeast: 6 leagues.

Maripipe [11°47'N, 124°20'E, Maripipi Island] al east-southeast 4 leagues.

Caranasa [11°31'N, 124°5'E, Carnasa Island] to the south a quarter-point to the southeast 5 leagues,

The island of Mala Pascua [11°20'N, 124°6'E, Malapascua, just north of Cebu Island] on the same bearing east another three leagues further on.

From Mala Pascua to another island I think is Vantaian [11°15'N, 124°E, Daan Bantayan] lies east-west: 6 leagues. [f. 85r] and the point of Buralaque [11°17'N, 124°3'E, Bulalaki Point] northeast-southwest 2 leagues.

From Malapascua to the port of Tailaguegan [11°25'N, 124°22'E, Taglawigan] which is on the island of Leyte northeast-southwest 4 leagues  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

From the said port to an islet called Magadagad [11°34'N, 124°16'E, Gigatangan Island] eastnortheast-westsouthwest, and the coast of Leyte runs yto the north a quarter-point to the northeast.

From the point of the main mountain Maripipe lies north-south.

Maripipe runs with the island of Talaip [Santo Niño, 13° 15 ', 123° 33 'E] north-south and is 2 leagues.

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<sup>5</sup>Reading *donde estan* for *doestan*.

From Talaip a Tagapora [ $12^{\circ}4'N$ ,  $124^{\circ}12'E$ , Tagapula Island] northnortheast-southsouthwest 3 leagues  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

From Tagapora to Bongol [ $12^{\circ}16'N$ ,  $124^{\circ}7'E$ , Destocado Island] north[crossed out] northwest-southeast a quarter-point from norte at 4 leagues.

The islet of Bocton and Tagapora north-south 4 leagues.

The island of Cronian [ $12^{\circ}43'N$ ,  $123^{\circ}36'E$ , S. Miguel Island ] from the point of Burias which is towards [?] Ticao runs to the southwest a quarter-point from west.

From the head of Bondo [Bondoc], Donblon lies southwest a quarter-point to the south: 6 leagues.

Sebuyan [ $12^{\circ}26'N$ ,  $122^{\circ}33'E$ , Sibuyan] to the south a quarter-point to the southeast: 8 leagues.

Banton southwest a quarter-point to the west.

From the head of Panamao [ $11^{\circ}34'N$ ,  $124^{\circ}30'E$ , Biliran ] Maripipe lies northwest a quarter-point to the north, and two reefs to the northwest and from one to the other is a quarter of a league.

And the island of Talaip to the north stretches from the head of Panamao to Maripipe 2 leagues. There is a little island in the middle. At the head of Panamao there is an islet very near. [End of f. 85r]

## References

- O'Scanlan, compiler, T. (1831). *Diccionario marítimo español, que ademas de las definiciones de las voces con sus equivalentes en frances, ingles e italiano, contiene tres vocabularios de estos idiomas con las correspondencias castellanas, etc.* Madrid. Revised, before publication, by Manuel del Castillo. With a preface by Martín Fernández de Navarrete.