

## Unique Aspects of the Cartographic Work of Piri Reis

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In his time he was successful in drawing two quite different types of maps:

- the two world maritime maps of 923 / 1513 and 935 / 1528 with all their rhumb lines and scales of measurement,

- the hundreds of detailed coastal maps in his portolan, the *Kitab-ı Bahriye*, each with its north-pointing arrow but normally without scales of measurement, the text giving the necessary distances between points;

Unlike anyone else in his time or before, for his first world map he utilized at least twenty maps not only from the Christian European world but also from the Islamic world and from the ancient period, or as he put it *İskenderi Zülkarneyn zamanında* (in the time of Alexander).

He included in the world map of 1513 information based upon the map of Christopher Columbus resulting from his second voyage.

He was the first in representing towns and cities in Ottoman illustrations.

He wrote the most complete sixteenth-century portolan of the Mediterranean and Aegean seas, the *Kitab-ı Bahriye*.

He was the first cartographer consciously to meld the text and the map. The maps often present information that is not mentioned in the text. Not for decades did another cartographer use the same and also much improved approach.

In the various copies of the *Kitab-ı Bahriye* there are more manuscript maps than that of any other cartographer ever. So far the total number of manuscript maps is 5704.

