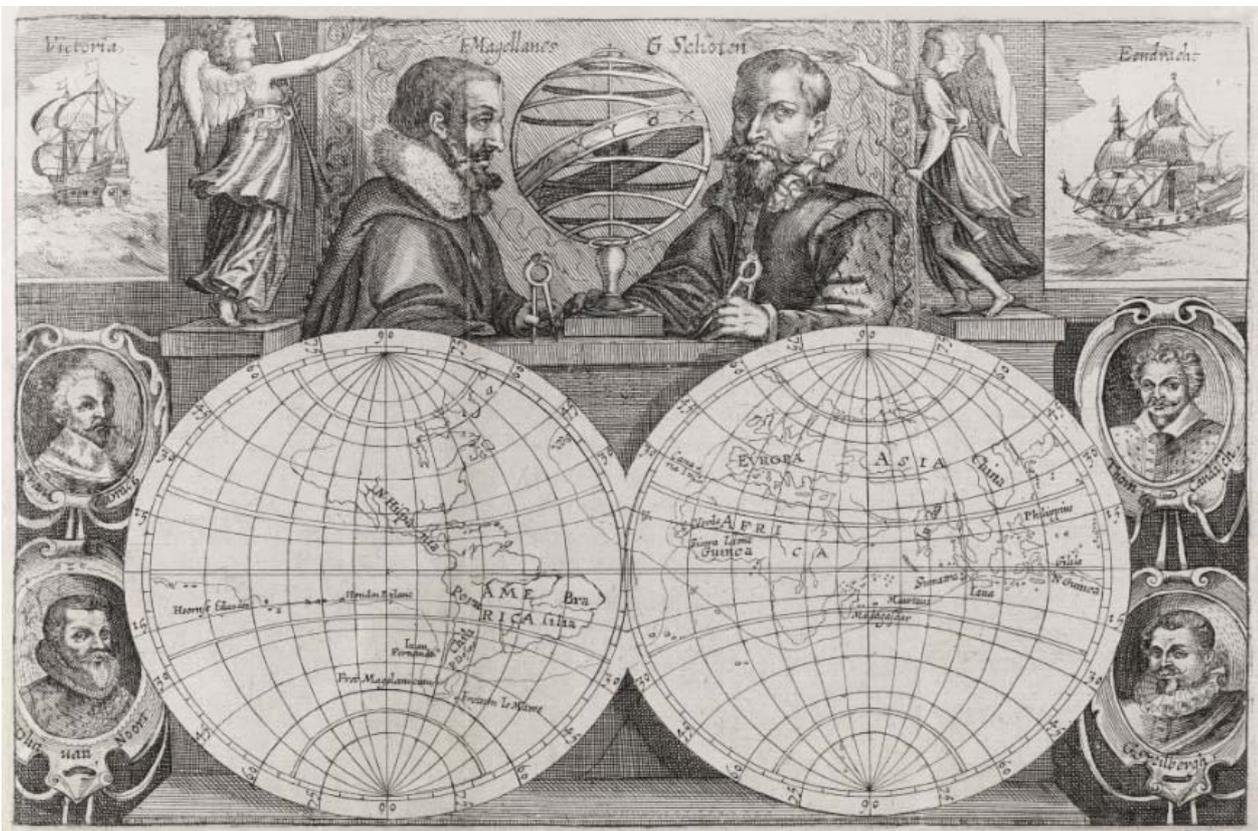


From Middle Temple to Manoa

Global networks at the Inns of Court



September to December 2021

Introduction

This exhibition links global networks of trade and exploration to Elizabethan and Jacobean social and literary networks at the Middle Temple. According to Walter Raleigh, who was admitted to the Middle Temple in 1575, 'Manoa' was the Indigenous name for what the Spanish called 'El Dorado', a fabled city of gold that Raleigh travelled in search of in 1617. The demand for commodities and knowledge about the world that emerged from European trade and exploration in the sixteenth century quickly became part of the social milieu of the Inns. Gentlemen commissioned globes that charted recent voyages. They celebrated Francis Drake's return from his raids on the Spanish West Indies, and collected parts of the Golden Hind, the ship Drake captained when he circumnavigated the globe. Sugar, tobacco, spices, feathers, and pearls were increasingly used to celebrate imperial intervention abroad and to fuel sociability at home.

While Elizabethans hoped colonization might usher 'a golden world in this iron age', whose golden age was it? The access to, and consumption of, global goods often relied on the mass exploitation of human lives and natural resources in other parts of the world. This exhibition encourages visitors to think about the influence of global interests on the social lives and self-fashioning of Inns gentlemen, but also to consider the geopolitics of production and exploitation that became ingrained in elite notions of civil refinement.

This exhibition was curated by Dr Lauren Working and Dr Emily Stevenson of the TIDE project (Travel, Transculturality, and Identity in England, 1550 – 1700) at the University of Oxford, with the support of Barnaby Bryan, Archivist, Liane Owen, Book Conservator, Siobhán Prendergast, Conservator, and Renae Satterley, Librarian. This exhibition also contains a series of artworks from the artist and 'pocket' globe maker Loraine Rutt.

Exhibition Cases

The exhibition is divided into nine themes:

- The world encompass'd: Francis Drake and the Inns of Courts and their intellectual and social networks
- Networks of trade and friendship: the complex networks that existed between barristers, travellers, politicians, and scholars among others in the early modern period
- Pearls and the sea: how pearls became part of popular culture and fashion in early modern England
- Jamestown: the early English colony in Virginia
- Tobacco, the 'divine nymph': the trade in tobacco, and its place at the Inns of Court
- Feathers: the use of feathers in masques and as fashion adornments
- Purses and souls: the sermons preached to encourage exploration and colonisation
- Merchants and diplomats: the role of merchants and diplomats in creating and maintaining routes of trade
- Silken threads: silk and its link to trade and masques performed at the Inns of Court

A full catalogue of the exhibition can be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.tideproject.uk/from-middle-temple-to-manoa/>

The exhibition is accompanied by eleven artworks by Loraine Rutt. These pieces are limited editions works that were made for the exhibition. They were inspired by the Molyneux Globes, and the books and archival material in the display. A catalogue list of the artworks is available separately.

Follow the exhibition on Twitter with #MiddleTempleToManoa.

Items on display

Archive

An excerpt from the Minutes of Parliament describing Drake's 1586 return, MT.1/MPA/3

Engraving of Francis Drake with his hand on globe, MT.19/POR/213

Engraving of Walter Raleigh studded in pearls, MT/19/POR/573

Order for payment for silk and taffeta relating to the 1633/4 masque, MT.7/MAB/5

Benchers' petition (1613), MT.7/MAA

Library

William Crashaw, *A sermon preached in London before the right honorable the Lord Lavvarre, Lord Gouvernour and Captaine Generall of Virginea* (1610)

Dudley Digges, *The defence of trade* (1615), Copy 1

Francisco López de Gómara, *La historia general de las Indias* (1554)

Robert Hues, *A learned treatise of globes, both coelestiall and terrestriall* (1639)

Johann Neander, *Tabacologia* (1622)

Sir Thomas Roe, *Sir Thomas Roe his speech in Parliament* (1641)

William Symonds, *Virginia: A sermon preached at White-chappel in the presence of many, honourable and worshipfull, the adventurers and planters for Virginia. 25. April. 1609* (1609)

Four clay pipe remnants, discovered under the floor of 1 Harcourt Buildings, and donated to the Library in 1969, OBJ 63

Leaf from a mulberry tree taken from the mulberry tree in Fountain Court (2021)



Middle Temple Library

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