

BOOK OF THE KNOWLEDGE

of All the Kingdoms, Lands, and Lordships that are in the World

Master Findings Report

*Pre-translation source analysis · itinerary reconstruction · hidden structures ·
complete-circuit inventory*

Compiled from the Castilian *Libro del Conoscimiento*
Jiménez de la Espada 1877 · Markham / Hakluyt Society 1912 · Marino 1999
read against the six-chapter modern English project of 2026

28 August 2026

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1. What this report is

This volume records a reread of the *Libro del Conoscimiento de todos los reinos* against its pre-translation witnesses, not only against the six modern English chapters prepared in 2026. Those chapters are a strong rendering of the European–Levant–Persian–Caspian spine. They are not the book.

The original is a closed world-circuit that begins in Castile, runs Christendom, the North Atlantic, Spain a second time, the Mediterranean, both Africa, Arabia, India, Java, Cathay and the castle of Magot, then returns by Persia, the Black Sea, Russia, the Baltic, Flanders, and Seville. The last sentence of the source narrative is: he went to Flanders, and from there to Seville, the city from which he first started.

The findings below assume, as instructed, that the voice is a first-hand Castilian itinerary of the fourteenth century. Scholarship since Jiménez has often treated the same text as an imaginary travelogue framed to carry an armorial. Both readings are noted where they change the weight of a passage. The structures themselves do not depend on the premise. They are on the page.

2. The book as an object

Full title, from the Castilian rubric: a book of the knowledge of all the kingdoms, lands, and lordships that are in the world, and of the signals and arms that each land and lordship has, and of the kings and lords who provision them. Geography is the drawer. The painted device is the file. Travel is only the order of the drawers.

Four manuscripts are known: S (Madrid, most complete, base of Jiménez 1877 and Markham 1912), N and R (British Library), and Z (once Zurita's copy; now Munich, Cod. hisp. 150; facsimile 1999). The 2026 chapter translations follow the Markham English of S/N/R, modernized. Z sometimes differs in flags and small names.

The speaker says he was born in Castile on 11 September when the year of Christ was 1304 (some witnesses read the cluster as 1305). Jiménez presented him as a Franciscan writing about 1350. Later editors (Riquer, Marino, Lacarra, Ashley–Clemmensen) doubt both the habit and a single early date, and push the *book as object* toward the 1370s–1380s because of atlas kinship (Dulcert 1339, Medici/Catalan family) and, in some copies, the France of three fleurs-de-lis. The journey-memory and the painted book need not be the same year.

3. The working premise

If the account is first-hand, the author is a Castilian clerk of Alfonsine education who collected sovereignty marks, river-knots, and roads the way a later officer collects order-of-battle. He writes so a later hand can turn the text back into a map. Marvels (Golden Fleece, cynocephali, Noah's salt mountain, Paradise rivers, Prester John) sit inside the same visual vocabulary as the Hereford Mappa Mundi and the Catalan Atlas. They do not, by themselves, prove fabrication. They prove that he spoke the geographic language of his century.

The strongest first-hand verbs are not “Cathay exists.” They are: I stayed at Magot; I saw a cynocephalus in Norgancio; I embarked in a ship of Coman Christians on the Sea of Sara; I travelled with Christian merchants from Catayo; I saw the unclimbed tower at Constantinople; I saw the white salt mountain of the ark; I heard the Abu Sa■d–Özbek war from people who still favoured the Armenian Christians.

4. The birth paragraph as a computus

He does not say only “I was born in 1304.” He stacks seven clocks on one day, 11 September:

Era given	Figure	What it is doing
Hebrew world (AM)	5065	Anno Mundi; 11 Sept 1304 can fall in AM 5065 because Tishri 1 floats 3 Sept–6 Oct
Deluge	4407	Flood era near the Alfonsine 3101 BCE + 1304 = 4405 (off by ~2)
Nebuchadnezzar of Chaldea	2502	Astronomical / Chaldean epoch; does not match the short Nabonassar count
Alexander of Macedonia	1617	Seleucid-style Alexander count; ~2 years off a 312/311 BCE epoch
Caesar of Rome	1343	Spanish Era (AD + 38 = 1342); off by 1 at the year-boundary
Christ	1304	AD
Arabs	706	Hijri; Sept 1304 is nearer 704 AH (off by ~2)

The misses cluster at one or two years on Flood, Alexander, and Hijri. That is transmission drift in a clerk who knew the Alfonsine toolkit, not a different birthday. The paragraph is a competence-signature: he can translate time across Hebrew, Roman-Spanish, Greek-Macedonian, and Islamic systems.

5. Master itinerary of the whole book

The original is not six modern chapters. It is seven legs that close on themselves.

Leg	Route	Character
I	Castile → Portugal → N. Spain → France → Flanders → Rhine → Frisia → Denmark → N. Germany → Bohemia → Poland → Lemberg	Highest first-hand density. Civic lists, rivers, correct dynastic arms.
II	Sweden / Gotland / Götaland → Norway (polar day) → English ship → Zealand → Thule → Scotland → England → Ireland → western isles → Finisterre → Pontevedra → Gibraltar → Granada → Aragon	Ocean loop and second Spain. Omitted from the six chapters almost entire.
III	Narbonne → Avignon → Genoa → Lombardy → Pisa → Florence → Rome → Naples → Sicily → Venice → Dalmatia → Bosnia → Hungary → Morea → Rhodes → Crete → Negroponte	Mediterranean civic and heraldic core.
IV	Satalia → Anatolia (Troy, Iconium, Sebastia) → Lesser Armenia / Colchis → Cyprus → Syria / Jerusalem → Damascus → Egypt → Libyan coast → Tunis → Sardinia / Corsica → Maghreb	Levant plus first Africa.
V	Cape Boujdour → 25 Atlantic islands → Sahara camels → Guinea / Organa / Tauser → Dongola → Nile to Cairo → Abdeselib / Graciona → Malsa / Prester John → Magdasor → Aden / Mecca → Hormuz → India → Java → Cathay → Magot	The omitted half of the world. First European parking of Prester John in Africa. First grouped naming of Canaries / Madeiras / Azores.
VI	Magot west → Bocarin (25 days) → Cato (35 days) → 125-day Caspian spur → Norgancio → Caspian / Coman ship → Taurus four rivers → Greater Armenia / salt ark → Tabriz → Shiraz → Abu Sa■■■■d–Özbeq war	Eastern hinge. The six-chapter project’s Chapters 5–6.

Leg	Route	Character
VII	Kur crossing → Mesopotamia → Euphrates branch → Tripoli → Cyprus → Aegean → Salonica → Constantinople → Black Sea → Trebizond → Derbent → Volga / Russia → Sweden → Denmark → Flanders → Seville	Return braid. The proof-structure of a circuit.

Later critics call the path a zigzag. Under a first-hand premise it is coastal collection, two African attempts, and one Asian attempt, written in atlas order so the flags stay sequential.

6. What the six-chapter cut omitted

North Atlantic and Britain. Gotland (Visby said to have ninety parishes), Sweden and its frozen gulf, Norway with six-month day and night, an English ship west to Zealand, Thule, Scotland, England (London, the schools at “Gunsa,” Bristol, Wales), Ireland (Dublin, the Fortunate Lake, a land outside the seven climates), and the western isles, then a Spain landing at Pontevedra and the run to Gibraltar and Granada.

Atlantic islands. A named set of twenty-five, including Graciosa, Lanzarote (explicitly tied to the death of the Genoese Lanzarote / Lancelotto Malocello), Lobos, Alegranza, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Infierno, Gomera, Hierro, Palma, Salvaje, Desierta, Porto Santo, and the Azorean cluster. Only three said to be peopled. Markham’s claim about the source, not about the six chapters: this is the first text to name most of the Canaries, Madeiras, and Azores as a group.

Sahara, Guinea, and the River of Gold. Sijlmasa, the Draa (six populated days), Tocoron, Ganaht of Guinea, Organa, Tauser, Dongola of Nubian Christians, a sixty-day Nile with Genoese merchants, Cape Boujdour, camel crossing of the Zahara with gold-carrying Moors, and the Rio del Oro treated as a western Nile / Senegal.

Christian Africa. Graciona, capital of Abdeselib (“Servant of the Cross”), defender of the church of Nubia and Ethiopia and protector of Prester John; Malsa, Prester John’s residence; the four rivers of Paradise; Magdasor with 154 regions, said to be a quarter of the earth’s face. First European text to park Prester John in Africa.

Vivaldi intelligence. At Graciona he reports the 1291 Vivaldi galleys: one wrecked and men escaped; the other vanished; a son later searched at Magdasor and was refused.

Arabia–India–Java–Cathay proper. Babel, Baghdad, Medina, Mecca (the law in an iron chest), Socotra, Hormuz, Delhi / Delini, the spice coast, Trapovana / Java (forty days long, field-living vassals of Cathay), Armalet / Canbalech, and the Cathay city-list: Solin, Godiana, Magodiana, Morrosia, Facolisia, Dardasan, Tordaor, Bocarda, Astania, Longavisa. Then sixty-five days up the Magot to the castle that is one of the gates of enclosed Tartary.

The homeward close. Derbent, the west Caspian, the Volga / Tanais, Roxia and the Russian kingdoms, then Sweden, Denmark, Flanders, Seville. The six chapters stop around Salonica–Constantinople–Black Sea.

7. Timing, measures, and numerical formulas

The text uses days’ journeys as its distance-currency. Two modules dominate.

Southern / Indian module: 40 (Red Sea inland; Java’s length), 50 (Indian gulf into the land), 60 (Dongola to Cairo), 65 (River of Guinea; Magot river north).

Imperial module: 125 days for the Caspian mountain spur *and* for the length of Persia from the Caspian to Hormuz; 100 days for Persia's width from the Kur to Shiraz; 100 by 70 for enclosed Tartary.

Local measures: Loire gulf to Paris, 4 days; Calais to England, 8 miles; Denmark to Norway, 60 miles; Draa, 6 days; Magot to Bocarin, 25 days; Cathay merchants to Cato, 35 days; Norgancio to the Caspian shore, 30 days; Moon-mountain lake, 20 by 10.

Symbolic counts: Castile 28 cities / 3 archbishoprics / 25 bishoprics / 4 ranges / 6 rivers; Dacia 12 cities; Bohemia 7; Morea 7; Cyprus 4; Lesser Armenia 360 towns inside the mountain ring; Visby 90 parishes; Magdasor 154 regions; Hungarian Danube islands 10, named; Atlantic islands 25; battle cavalry 1.5 million.

Three hundred and sixty towns inside the Armenian ring is a completeness number. One hundred and twenty-five days is the longest span he will treat as one object. He uses it for a mountain system and for an empire, which means he classed both as one kind of thing: a trans-Asian barrier that takes a season and a third to cross.

8. Landmark register

Relics and built things. Magi tombs at Cologne and three Magi monuments at Solin in Cathay; Hagia Sophia and the unclimbed tower with Constantine's metal horseman pointing at Turkey; Solomon's temple; Babel in the field of Senabar; Nineveh ruins; Noah's ark on a mountain of white salt-stone, like crystal, attempted many times and never climbed; the Golden Fleece temple on the islet of Porto Bonel in Lesser Armenia; Mecca's law in an iron chest; Lanzarote named from the dead Genoese.

Hydrographic knots. Castile's six rivers; four Pyrenean rivers; Alps giving Rhone, Rhine, and Danube; Lebanon's Jor and Dan becoming Jordan, then two lakes that swallow the river; four Taurus rivers (Tigris into the Caspian, Cur through Persia, Euphrates with three arms to Red Sea / Black Sea / Mediterranean, Surmena to Trebizond); four Paradise rivers; Nile split at Dongola; Rio del Oro as western Nile; Magot, Cur, and Euphrates rising in the Caspian mountains; nine rivers crashing together at Vecina / Widdin.

The three-armed Euphrates is not a modern map. It is a connector formula: one highland knot tying four seas into a single machine. That is how a portolan is written in sentences.

9. The two roads to Cathay

These are recipes, not ornament. They sit in the pre-translation and were only half-visible in the chapter notes.

Road 1 (north / Caspian). Constantinople → Greater Sea → Sea of Letana (Azov) → Avegazia → land of King David → Greater Armenia → Iron Gate (Puerto del Fierro) → Sea of Sara → island of Janula / Gulf of Monimenti → Trastago → Norgancio → Caspian mountains → Cato → Bocarin → townless Asia to Cathay.

Road 2 (south / Persian). Mediterranean → Cyprus → Greater Armenia → Savasco in Turkey → Euphrates at Argot → Mesopotamia → Cur in Persia → Tabriz → Caspian left to one side → Siras → Sarmagant → east through Şçim, where the people live in the fields, to Cathay.

Magot is the hinge of the whole eastern book: a named castle, one of the gates of enclosed Tartary, where he stays "for a time," then turns west. Cathay is not the climax. The gate is.

10. Heraldry as the filing system

Ashley–Clemmensen count about 119 painted devices, then a final non-armorial Baltic–Flanders–Seville close. European arms are often recognizable (Castile quarterly castles and lions; France of gold lilies; Flanders a black lion on gold; Empire a crowned black eagle on gold; Venice the winged lion; Cyprus mixing Jerusalem crosses and French lilies). Distant arms are built from plausible tinctures and charges — yellow flags with white stars for Bocarin and Cato; Özbek’s red mark on white at Norgancio; Prester John’s cross; the Great Khan seated with bow and orb.

Shared devices are linkage marks. Bocarin and Cato fly the same yellow field with many white stars. That is either one dynasty, one informant, or one visual system. The Armenian Christians as trusted guards of the Persian emperor, the Coman Christian ship, and the Cathay Christian merchants are the same kind of mark in prose instead of paint: Christendom already has agents east of the expected line.

11. Reliability gradient on the full circuit

Band	Content	Density
Highest	Iberia, France, Italy, Hungary, Dalmatia	Cities, rivers, dynastic arms that can be checked
High	Flanders, Rhine, Bohemia, Poland; Maghreb and island names	Good lists, some scramble
Mixed embodied	Britain, Ireland, Norway polar night; Levant pilgrim coast	Real kingdoms, schematic miles
Inventory / report	Guinea to Prester John; India–Java–Cathay city-list	Strong names, fewer walking verbs
Eastern first-hand core	Magot, Norgancio, Tabriz, Abu Sa■■■d, salt ark, Coman ship	Stay / saw / embarked
Lowest	Russian kingdoms and the last Baltic hop home	Thin, hurried, then the Seville close

Reading the book backwards still works. Chapter-style Europe is sure. The far east is thinner. What the six chapters could not show is that Africa south of the Atlas is rich in names and poor in walking verbs, while Asia beyond Magot is the reverse. That is the pattern of a man who collected coasts hard and interiors from merchants — which is exactly what a first-hand traveler of 1350 would do.

12. Political clocks inside the narrative

Fernando IV of Castile (reign 1295–1312) locks the birth window. Avignon is the papal court. Louis IX at Damietta (1250) is remembered, not seen. Melic Nasçar is crowned at Cairo. Alfonso XI’s victory over Abu al-Hasan (Salado, 1340) and Abu al-Hasan’s disaster at Kairouan sit in the Maghrib memory. Abu Sa■■■d Bahadur Khan dies in 1335; Özbek of the Golden Horde dies in 1341. The vow-to-convert, the Armenian cross in the van, and the Hajji-poisoning only make sense as a report compiled after 1335. Vivaldi is 1291. Lancelotto Malocello is already dead on Lanzarote.

If born in 1304, the speaker is about thirty-one when Abu Sa■■■d dies. The eastern journey belongs to his late twenties or thirties. The book as written belongs after that death. Double description of Persia across the later chapters is outbound memory and inbound memory of one theatre, not two invented Persias.

13. Cartographic intent and later use

The 2026 updated analysis was right and still too narrow. Cartographic intent is the form of the *whole* book: flags, river-knots, day-modules, an explicit pair of roads, a named gate, a home port. The African and Atlantic matter is the strongest evidence, because those sections are the ones later captains actually lifted. In 1402 the Béthencourt / Gadifer expedition extracted the book as a port-and-arms manual for the Canaries and the Saracen shore. Within two generations the text was already operational geography.

Kinship with the Dulcert–Medici–Catalan atlas family explains the grammar. It does not, by itself, cancel a body. A traveler who already thought in portolan could write his memory in portolan.

14. Implications if the itinerary is first-hand

A Christian merchant corridor still ran from the Aegean to Urgench, with men who claimed Cathay. Armenian clergy at the Ilkhanid court were the main translators of Persian high politics into Latin-Christian narrative. Urgench was a market where steppe, Islam, Christianity, and “marvel-races” were visible together. Tabriz was capital-of-empire and Shiraz capital-of-stars, “in the line of the centre of Persia.” The Caspian was a Christian-navigated sea, not only a Muslim one. Noah’s ark was already tied to a white salt lithology and a local ban on successful ascent. West Africa had a named island-set and a River of Gold precise enough that later Norman-French captains copied it. Prester John had been moved from India to Africa and given a protector titled Servant of the Cross.

The quiet argument of the book is not tourism. It is that Christendom already has marks, roads, and allies inside the Mongol-Islamic belt and along the Atlantic face of Africa. That is an intelligence object.

15. Open questions

Exact modern fixes remain unsettled for Cato, the castle of Magot, Raansinlia, Godaspa, Solin-in-Cathay, Malsa, Organa, and Amenuan. Witnesses split on 25 versus 35 days from Magot. The France of three lilies in some copies may be authorial or a later painter; that is the main argument for a 1380s *book-object* even if the journey-memory is older. Z has not been collated here line by line against S. Africa south of the Atlas is still richer in names than in verbs. None of those gaps remove the circuit, the modules, the two roads, or the Seville close.

16. How the companion translation was made

The companion volume is a complete modern-English rendering of the whole narrative as preserved in Markham’s 1912 Hakluyt text (itself from Jiménez’s Castilian of S, with N and R). Sentence order is kept. Victorian diction is modernized. Editor footnotes, plate calls, and the place-index are stripped. Secure modern names are added in brackets where the identification is stable (Tabriz, Urgench, Bruges, Avignon). Unstable names are left in the source form. This is not a new critical edition of manuscript Z, and it is not an abridgment. It includes the African, Atlantic, Indian, Cathay, Russian, and homeward legs that the six-chapter project did not print.

The last sentence is the author’s own close, not an editor’s: from Flanders to Seville, the city from which he first started.

End of the findings volume. The translation follows as a separate file.