

Madrid, 13 February. The two Corvettes and a smaller vessel which, on account of the Government's, went from Cadiz in the month of July 1789 to explore the coasts of South America and the adjacent Islands from the River Plate to Cap Horn, and from the Cape as far as they could go to the North West extremity of America, have successfully arrived back at Cadiz, and a newspaper has given us a summary of their discoveries. It is now proved that between 59 and 61 degrees there is no passage between the North West Coast of America and the Atlantic Ocean. In company with the English ships under the command of Captain Vancouver, they explored the immense archipelago known by the names of Admirals Fonte and John de Fuca. As well, they employed almost the whole of the year 1792 to investigate the Marianna and Philippine Islands, as well as the southern part of the Chinese coast. They sailed together between Mindanao and New Guinea, passed beyond the Line eastwards and traversed the seas for a distance of 500 miles [leagues], and the New Hebrides, visited New Zealand, New Holland and the Friendly-Islands archipelago, including the Babau [Vava'u] islands which had never been examined by any navigators.

During this voyage, many discoveries have been made in all the realms of Nature; and the attempt has been made to test the weight of bodies in particular Latitudes on both sides of the Equinoctial Line, which will no doubt lead to important conclusions regarding the Earth's irregular figure. They have gathered as much intelligence as possible on the social institutions of the peoples they visited, so as to shed some light on their affinities and migrations, as well as the degree of culture and refinement they had achieved. They have also discovered in the immense extent of the Spanish empire among many of Nature's productions many hidden treasures, which will continue to be useful. Most fortunately, this voyage of discovery has not cost humanity a single tear. All the tribes that have been visited shall bless the memory of those who, far from dyeing their beaches with blood, have only given them new ideas, new tools for their cultivation, and new seeds for the benefit of their soil. Happy is he who was in this little Squadron which, during a long voyage through different climates, has not lost more than 3 for 4 men on each ship. Captain Malaspina on 7 December was received by the King; and it is intended to publish the description of his voyage.