Renaissance Florence and the New World in the Newberry Collection

How to Use Our Collection

The Newberry is an independent research library; readers do not check books out to take home, but consult materials here. We welcome into our reading rooms researchers who are at least 14 years old or in the ninth grade. Creating a free reader account and requesting collection items takes just a few minutes. Please visit https://requests.newberry.org to begin the registration process and to start exploring our collection; when you arrive at the Newberry for research, a free reader card will be issued to you in our third-floor reference center. For further information about our collection and public programs, please visit www.newberry.org.

Primary Sources in the Newberry Collection

Columbus, Christopher. *Epistola…* Rome: Stephan Plannck, 1493. The first edition of Leandro de Cosco’s Latin translation of Columbus’s Letter announcing his discoveries to the court of Ferdinand and Isabella, published in Rome. Other early editions of Columbus’s letter are also available. Call #: VAULT Ayer 107.56 1493 1493 or VAULT Ayer 107.56 1493 1493a


Bernardino, de Sahagún. *Siguense Unos Sermones de Dominicas y de Santos en Lengua Mexicana…* 1540-1563. Manuscript compilation of sermons in Nahuatl by the author of the Florentine Codex. Call #: VAULT Ayer MS 1485 (currently unavailable for conservation treatment, but digitized and available online at https://www.wdl.org/en/item/15018/#institution=newberry-library)

Ramusio, Giovanni Battista. *Navigations et viaggi*. Venice: Stamperia di Giunti, 1559-1606. Three-volume set (mixed editions) of Ramusio’s compilation of French, Spanish, Italian, and other travel accounts in Italian, available at the Medici court. Other early editions of individual volumes are also available. Call #: Greenlee 4583 .R18 1606

Stract, Jan Van der [Giovanni Stradano]. *Nova Reperta*. Antwerp?: ca. 1580-1600. A series of engravings, illustrating a number of important inventions during the middle-ages and the renaissance, e.g. the magnet and compass, gunpowder and guns, printing, flour-mills, eyeglasses, etc., and also including European explorers such as Columbus and Vespucci. **Call #: VAULT Case Wing folio Z 412 .85**

Maffei, Giovanni Pietro. *Historiarvm indicarvm libri XVI…* Florence: Filippo Giunta, 1588. Rare edition of this work on the conversion of the natives of both the New World and Asia, commissioned and paid for by Ferdinando de’ Medici. **Call #: VAULT Ayer 2057 .M21 1588**

**The Franco Novacco Map Collection.** With over 700 maps printed in Italy during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Novacco Collection is one of the strongest collections in the world for Italian maps of this period. Includes maps that inspired the map room in the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. **Call #: Varies; consult Newberry staff.**


Secondary Sources in the Newberry Collection


To find many other items on Renaissance Florence, Italian exploration of the Americas, and related topics, search for the following subjects:

- America—Discovery and Exploration—Italian
- Art, Renaissance—Italy—Florence
- Florence (Italy)—History—1421-1737
- Medici, House of
- Renaissance—Italy—Florence

This Quick Guide was created for a Meet the Author event, *Lia Markey, Imagining the Americas in Medici Florence*, held at the Newberry on February 9, 2017.