

MAP OF THE CITY AND LAKE, MEXICO,  
PUBLISHED IN 1524.

---

THIS Map was issued with the Latin translation of the second and third letters of Cortés, made by Pietro Savorgnani, of Forli, Secretary to the Bishop of Vienne in Dauphiné, and dedicated to Pope Clement VII. It was published in Nuremberg in the year 1524.<sup>1</sup> It contains a chart of the Gulf of Mexico, showing Yucatan as an Island, and a bird's-eye-view of the City and Lake of Mexico, far from accurate, but containing many points of interest.

The imperial flag, flying over what must be intended for Coyoacan, implies that it was drawn after the siege was over, and when Cortés had established his headquarters at Coyoacan. By that time the City of Mexico was in ruins, but the Map purports to show the City in the days of Montezuma.

The principal feature of the Plan is the exaggerated representation of the great Temple enclosure of Tenochtitlan, which is depicted as square and surrounded by a wall with four gateways, one nearly in the middle of each side. Within the enclosure, on the west side, stands the great Teocalli of Hiutzilopochtli and Tlaloc, marked *Templum ubi sacrificant*. It faces the east, and shows the two towers or sanctuaries with a full human face between them, probably representing the sun. To the south of the Teocalli is a Tzumpantli, or scaffolding, on which were displayed the skulls of the victims, and on the north side

---

<sup>1</sup> See Bibliographical Note to Macnutt's Translation of Cortés' Letters, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

stand two lesser temples. Below these buildings runs the legend, *Capita sacrificatorii*, which evidently belongs to the Tzumpantli. In the middle of the enclosure stands a headless human figure, holding out a scroll in each hand. Beneath this figure is the legend *Idol lapideum*. To the north of this figure a small square is drawn. To the south of the figure is what appears to be a tree or trees, surrounded by a fence, and beyond this some buildings abutting on the southern gate of the enclosure.

In the middle of the eastern part of the enclosure stands another large Tzumpantli ; on the south side of it there is a temple enclosed by a wall, and on the north side a temple standing by itself with a triple roof.

---

#### THE IZTAPALAPA CAUSEWAY AND SOUTH-EAST SECTION.

To the south of the temple enclosure is the market-place, marked *Platea*, with two small buildings in it. From this market-place, almost at its south-east corner, starts the street and causeway of Iztapalapa. A short distance outside the limits of the City a tower stands on the causeway, doubtless intended for Acachinanco. The causeway terminates towards the south in a transverse causeway (the Calzada de Mexicaltzingo), with buildings on the south, probably intended to represent the town of Mexicaltzingo. The eastern branch of the transverse causeway leads to the city of Iztapalapa, which is marked with its name, and the western branch would lead to Churubusco and Coyoacan.

On the eastern side of the market-place is depicted the Palace of Montezuma, with the legend *Dom. de Mutetiuma* ; this extends to the south-east corner of the temple enclosure, and behind it is a garden enclosed within a wall.

On the south part of the east side of the temple enclosure is the aviary, marked *Domus Animalium*, with the figures of men, birds, and beasts; between the aviary and the street running east towards the lake is another building, standing in a grove or garden.

---

THE EASTERN STREET, OR CAUSEWAY, AND NORTH-EAST SECTION.

The street running from the eastern gate of the temple enclosure to the lake is clearly marked, and terminates in a building marked *Templum ubi orant*. Against the northern half of the eastern wall of the temple enclosure a large building is depicted, doubtless intended for the Palace of Axayacatl.

Between the north-east corner of the temple enclosure and its northern gateway is an oblong space, marked by diagonal cross-lines, which may be intended for bridges, but as they abut on the wall of the enclosure that is not probable, and possibly they represent Chinampas or garden plots, and a large house with three towers stands to the north of them.

At the extreme north-east angle of the City, an arm of the lake finds entrance, and this is probably intended to mark the waterway by which Sandoval entered with the sloops during the last days of the siege.

---

THE TEPEACAC (GUADALUPE) CAUSEWAY AND THE NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

From the northern gate of the temple enclosure a broad road runs to the north with three bridges marked on it. It trends to the west and then divides into two causeways, one apparently leading to Tepeacac (Guadalupe) and the other to Tenayoca.

The great market-place and temple enclosure of Tlaltemolco is very inadequately shown, being reduced to a small square marked *Forum*, entered by four gateways, approached by a broad street from the east and by a short diagonal street from the south-west. The northern gateway opens on a causeway, apparently leading to Tenayoca. The western gateway leads to a causeway marked with three bridges, which runs towards Tacuba. On the north side of this causeway are some buildings probably intended for Noncalco.

From the northern gateway of the temple enclosure of Tenochtitlan to the north-west angle of the enclosure is an open space like a broad street, and this street is continued along the whole of the west wall of the enclosure.

A prominent building on the north side of the Calle de Tacuba (at the east end) cannot be identified.

---

#### THE TACUBA CAUSEWAY AND THE SOUTH-WEST SECTION.

The Tacuba Causeway is divided into sections by a number of bridges, and the western half shows the Aqueduct coming from the spring at Chapultepec, which is shaded by a grove of trees, with the legend *Ex isto fluuio conducunt aquam in Civitatem*.

On the south side of the Tabuca Causeway, near the limits of the city, a causeway, divided into two sections, is shown leading to a building in the lake marked as *Viridarium D. Muteezuma*. From this building a short causeway leads to another building in the lake marked *Domus ad Voluptatem D. Muteezuma*, and from this building another short causeway runs to join the houses on the west side of the Iztapalapa Causeway.

The large building, with towers on the south side of the Tacuba Causeway and facing the western wall of the temple enclosure, is doubtless intended for the old Palace of Montezuma.

The Albarrada or dyke of Netzahualcoyotl is very distinctly shown, and its structure of wooden posts and wattle is clearly indicated. It is marked with the legend *Aggeres ad tutelam domorum a Lacus fluctibus*.

The city of *Tesqua* (Texcoco) is shown on the eastern shore of the lake.

An island in the lake with buildings on it probably represents Tepepolco (Peñon del Marqués), and a town to the south of it, built half in the water, is possibly intended for Iztahuacan or Chimalhuacan.

---

#### NOTES ON THE MAP OF 1524.

On the whole, as a Map made without measurements, and probably from memory, this Map is not a bad representation of the comparative positions of the principal features indicated. The size of the temple enclosure of Tenochtitlan is greatly exaggerated, and the importance of the market place and temple enclosure of Tlaltelolco is correspondingly reduced. As I hope to show later when dealing with the orientation of the great Teocali the positions of the buildings within the temple enclosure has been reversed, and the great Teocali should face the west.

With regard to the two causeways shown to the west of the causeway of Guadalupe: At the commencement of the siege Cortés sent Sandoval to occupy Tepeacac. In describing this event Torquemada says:—

“ Pedro de Alvarado advised Cortés that on the Tepeaquilla (Tepeacac) side the Mexicans entered and left the city

by a causeway which went to some towns on the mainland, and by another small causeway which was near to it, . . . Cortés ordered Gonzalo de Sandoval, although he was wounded, to go and station his army at a town, Tepeacac, whence one of the causeways started, and Cristóbal Flores and Geromino Ruiz de la Mota were stationed with their sloops between Sandoval and Alvarado, at a small causeway, which was broken in some places, so that the investment of the city was completed.”

The Sta. Cruz Map shows no sign of a causeway branching off from the Guadalupe Causeway, but in the modern Map of the Federal District there is a trace of a road along the west side of the Salinas de la Magdalena which may be the line of an old causeway. There is, moreover, a causeway distinctly marked on the Sta. Cruz Map, running in a north-westerly direction from the site of the temple enclosure of Tlaltelolco in the direction of Tenayoca, and a road in that direction through Ahuehuetes is still shown on the Map of the Federal District. The two subsidiary causeways on the Plan under consideration would thus be satisfactorily accounted for.

The Causeway of Nonoalco probably forked before reaching land. The southern arm of the fork would run to Tacuba as shown, the northern arm would run to Azcapotzalco, but neither this northern arm nor the city of Azcapotzalco are shown on the Plan.<sup>1</sup> The Causeway of Nonoalco and the two arms of the fork are quite clear on the Map of the Federal District.

The same error of omitting the fork is repeated on the delineation of the Tacuba Causeway, where the aqueduct from Chapultepec is depicted as though it were the main causeway, whereas it is well known that the aqueduct

---

<sup>1</sup> The town which I have taken to be Tenayoca has no name attached to it, and it might be urged with equal probability that it is intended for Azcapotzalco.

followed what is now the Calzada de Veronica, and the main causeway ran by Popotla to Tacuba.

Of the causeways in the south-west section leading to the two buildings in the lake it is difficult to give any probable explanation. It may be that the *Viridarium* and *Domus ad Voluptatem D. Montezuma* are intended for Chapultepec, in which case they should be moved near the spring and grove shown on the margin of the lake. It may be that they are buildings of which all knowledge is lost.

It is rather curious to note that the small causeway running from Coyoacan to Acachinanco is not shown on the Plan and that no bridges are marked on the Izta-palapa Causeway. The short road towards the south-west which starts from the south side of the Tlaltelolco Temple enclosure is probably the road shown in the Maguey Map, by which Alvarado reached Tlaltelolco during the siege.

# MS. MAP OF THE CITY AND VALLEY OF MEXICO.

BY ALONSO DE SANTA CRUZ.

NOW IN THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UPSALA,  
SWEDEN.

---

THE life and work of Alonso de Santa Cruz, who flourished towards the middle of the sixteenth century, are most fully described by his contemporary, Alejo de Vanegas de Basto, *Las diferencias de libros que hay en el universo*, Toledo, 1540 (2nd ed., 1546), by Nicolao Antonio, *Bibliotheca Hispana nova*, Romae, 1672; and by Navarrete, *Noticia biografica de Alonso de Santa Cruz*, Madrid, 1835. Further authorities are adduced in the excellent and exhaustive monograph on the *Islario General* of this great cartographer (published as *Festgabe des K. u. K. Oberstkämmer-Amtes für den xvi Internat. Amerikanisten-Kongress*, Innsbruck, 1908), where also is reproduced from the *Islario* itself a Map of the City of Mexico corresponding in all its details—as far as it goes—with the MS. Map in Upsala University. That it is, however, not actually identified with the latter (a reduction of which was reproduced in Nordenskiöld's *Facsimile-Atlas*) is admitted by the compiler, Herr Franz, R. v. Wieser, who (on pp. ix and x) gives a bibliographical and cartographical list of his author's works.

The Sta. Cruz Map is surrounded by an ornamental band, and has a decorative ribbon border at each end; these are not shown in the reproduction.

There is also a label (of which the edge is shown)