

imperium dicto Regi penitus committitur—in  
20 opportuniore tamen loco atque omni lucro et commercio  
concedenti cuiusdam magnae villae, cui Nativitatis  
Domini nomen dedimus, possessionem peculiariter accipi,  
ibique arcem quandam erigere extemplo iussi, quae modo  
iam debet esse peracta. In qua homines, qui necessarii  
25 sunt visi, cum omni armorum genere et ultra annum victu  
oportuno reliqui.

### TRANSLATION

I have said before, in the same way I advanced along the island Joanna through a direct path from west to east three hundred and twenty two miles. According to the journey and the distance, I am able to state this Joanna to be larger than England and Scotland combined. For beyond said three hundred and twenty two miles, which looks to the west, two provinces are left (which I did not visit[seek out]) of which the Indians call one Aram, whose inhabitants are born with tails. They (the islands) are extended in length one hundred and eighty miles, as from those Indians whom I carried with me I learned, who know all these islands. Indeed the extent of Hispania is greater than all Spain from Cologne up to the Rapid Fountain; from this it is easily proven because its fourth side, which itself through a straight line of west to east I passed through, holds five hundred and sixty four miles. This island has to be claimed, and once claimed must not be scorned. In which—although, as I have said, I took possession of all these islands solemnly for our unconquered King and the supreme power of these is thoroughly committed to the said King—in a more opportune place nevertheless and suitable to all gain and commerce, I took personal possession of a great village, to which we gave the name Nativity of the Savior, and there I ordered a certain fortress to be built immediately which ought to be completed by now. In this place I left behind the men who seemed necessary with every kind of weapons and supplies for more than (beyond) a year.