

**Warrnambool Standard**  
**August 11 1890**

## **The Ancient Wreck**

**To The Editor of the Warrnambool Standard**

SIR,- I read with great interest the leader in the *Warrnambool Standard* of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. on the subject of the ancient wreck on the coast of Victoria, but was somewhat disappointed at finding there still appears to be great [word unreadable in original article] as to the whereabouts of this relic of the past.

However, a systematic search will, of course, soon settle that part of the question. Meanwhile, there is another question apparently trivial, though in reality of some consequence with reference to the nationality of those who manned this vessel. Is it possible to determine the course she was on by her position as stranded? Captain Mills, who trod on her deck, may have left Mr. T Lynar some information on this point, and if so, an expert with the knowledge of the coast and the position of the wreck, ought to be able to tell whether this vessel was going east or west, coming from South America or the Cape of Good Hope.

Most Spanish vessels travelled from east to west, although generally north of the equator, whereas the southern course of most Portuguese craft was from west to east, so that the position of the wreck would throw some light on the question of nationality; but this vessel may have been on an exploring tour from a Portuguese or Spanish settlement to the north of Australia. Still, even then, the course mentioned would have been adopted by each contending power.

On the old charts referred to in your paper, the eastern coast of Australia is evidently surveyed as far south as Wilson's Promontory, which is called Handsome Cape (Cabo Hermoso), the correct portion of the charting of the coast terminating at a point called New Bay- a name which appears to indicate a recent discovery- might not therefore this ancient vessel stranded on the Victorian coast, prove to be one sent out on a voyage of exploration to further determine the true bearings of the south coast of Australia, which alone is not marked on these old Australian charts? It is quite possible. If this vessel is found to be of Portuguese or Spanish origin, it is pretty certain that her coming to grief dates from the period of the earliest discoveries in these seas i.e. from 1511 to 1530, for at no other periods were these nations so active in their researches after new lands.

For further information on this subject see- Centennial Magazine, Jan., 1890, also Illustrated Sydney News, June 7, 21, and July 5 1890.

In studying these old charts, I came across a legend in Portuguese, which had escaped the notice of all those who had for the last hundred years commented upon them; this discovery led me further inquiry, the result being that I can positively assert that nearly the whole of Australia was discovered by the Portuguese and Spanish prior to any date hitherto suggested for such discovery. Without going into the technical details of my discovery, it will suffice to say that the result has been to establish, beyond the slightest doubt, the fact that these old charts are copies from the originals that must have been Portuguese and Spanish.

Furthermore, the oldest chart, being the one that was supposed to be either of French or Provençal origin- being proved to be of Portuguese origin by the Portuguese legend that I discovered thereon, the discovery of this country was thereby thrown back to a period anterior to 1530-36; whereas, before it was set down as having only possibly taken place, and that 12 years later, the evidence being supported by DeRotz's chart, which shows but a very small portion of Australia. In other words, before the discovery that I made of the Portuguese legend, the evidence of discovery was uncertain, and dated 12 years later.

I have in course of preparation another series of articles, further corroborating the evidence I have referred to.

I am, etc.,  
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1<sup>st</sup> August, 1890