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# A Picture History of Great Discoveries

Written by

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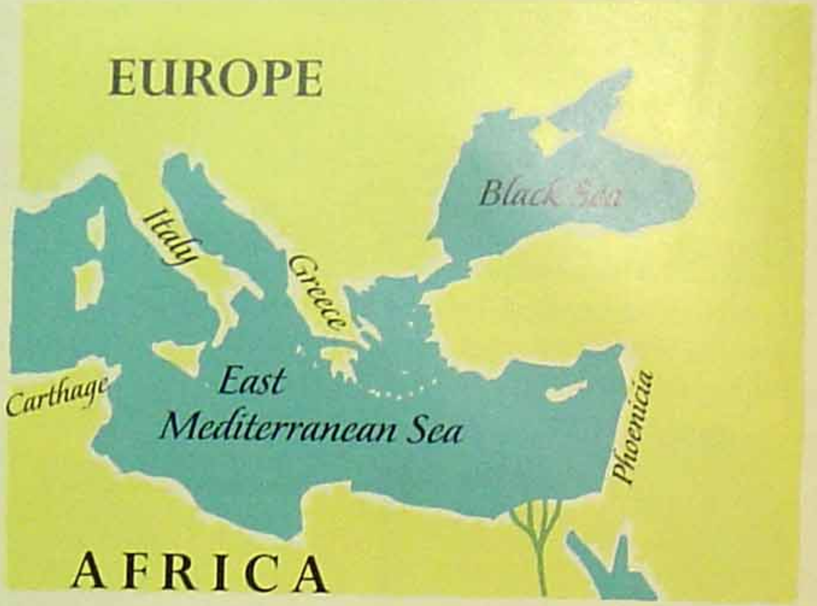
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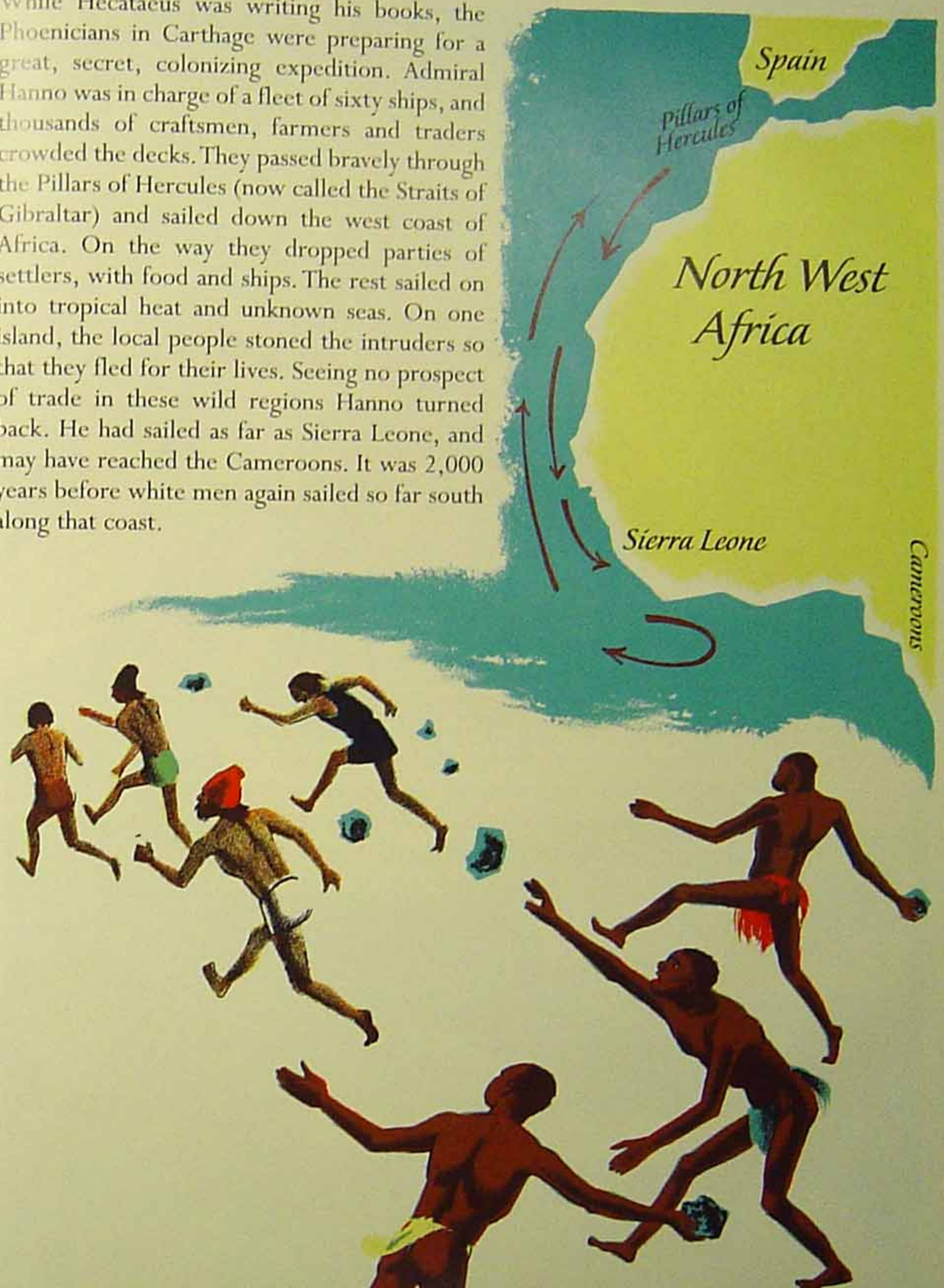
The Phoenicians, too, were fearless sailors. Their country was a narrow, barren strip of coast, but it had some good harbours, from which Phoenician ships sailed to all the countries round the Mediterranean, some to trade, others carrying Phoenician families to settle in more fertile lands. These settlers, with their skill in metal work and carving, grew rich and their cities prospered.






But it was not long before Greece began to send her ships over the Mediterranean to try to capture the Phoenician trade. Greeks and Phoenicians became rivals and whenever they met on sea they fought together. Greek scholars, meantime, were learning much from travellers' tales and one day Pythagoras astonished everyone by declaring the world was not flat, but round – like a ball. Another Greek scholar, Hecataeus, wrote two geography books telling all he had learnt about Europe and Asia and including a map showing all the known lands.

While Hecataeus was writing his books, the Phoenicians in Carthage were preparing for a great, secret, colonizing expedition. Admiral Hanno was in charge of a fleet of sixty ships, and thousands of craftsmen, farmers and traders crowded the decks. They passed bravely through the Pillars of Hercules (now called the Straits of Gibraltar) and sailed down the west coast of Africa. On the way they dropped parties of settlers, with food and ships. The rest sailed on into tropical heat and unknown seas. On one island, the local people stoned the intruders so that they fled for their lives. Seeing no prospect of trade in these wild regions Hanno turned back. He had sailed as far as Sierra Leone, and may have reached the Cameroons. It was 2,000 years before white men again sailed so far south along that coast.



While Pytheas was exploring in the north, a new king had arisen in Macedonia at the head of a powerful army. His name was Alexander and his heart was set on conquest. Already master of Greece, in 330 B.C. he marched on Persia who was unprepared for attack and easily overthrown. King Darius was killed and the remnant of the Persian army fled into Bactria, pursued by Alexander.





Across Bactria and into the hard, mountainous country of Afghanistan Alexander led his men, fighting, conquering. In the Hindu Kush mountains he was forced to halt for the winter, but in the spring he marched on again, capturing and killing the Persian leader, but never checking his victorious progress. He crossed Turkestan and was almost at the gates of China when he decided to turn back into India where he knew great riches lay.






His fame ran before him and many Indian princes yielded in fear; those who did not were ruthlessly destroyed. It seemed all the world must fall before him, but at the River



Beas Alexander's faithful horse died under him; and his army mutinied.

Officers and men, battle-weary, refused to go further, and after erecting a bronze column bearing the inscription 'Here Alexander Halted' the conqueror set his face for home.

