

The map on the cover, showing the Islands of the Ladrões, is from Sebastian Cabot's World Map of 1544. It is a reproduced copy from a photostat of the original on file at the Geography and Maps Division of the Library of Congress. Cabot's original maps are in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris.

In the upper left corner is Japan, noted as "Ciapagu insula". The northernmost of the Marianas, labeled "Santiago" and "San Bernabe de los Martiles", may have been named by Gonzalo Gomez de Espinosa, one of Magellan's captains who reached the vicinity in 1522. The source for the names of the other islands is thought to be Gonzalo de Vigo who remained in the islands from 1522 to 1526.

Chegua, in the southern group, may be the present Farallon de Medinilla. Naetan, Saepan, Guigan, and Temean resemble the present names of those islands, although their relative locations on Cabot's map is not clear. Bathahun and Baham are today Rota and Guam. There is no explanation for the islands that appear darkened. Is it possible that those are the islands visited by Gonzalo de Vigo during his four years' stay?

The caption to the right of the island of Baham reads, "Estas islas nombro Fernando de Magalanas las islas de los Ladrões", meaning "Ferdinand Magellan named these islands the Islands of the Ladrões".

The group of islands south of Guam, "Islas de los Reyes", were so named by Alvaro de Saavedra on his voyage from Mexico to the Philippines in 1527-1528 because they were sighted on 6 January 1528, the feast of the Three Kings.

GUAM

A NOMENCLATURAL CHRONOLOGY

by

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ABSTRACT

In 1521 sailing with the equatorial current and before the trade winds, Magellan reached some islands near 14 degrees North Latitude which he named Las Velas after the sails on the canoes and Los Ladrones when the inhabitants took one of his boats. Some 40 years later in 1565 the Legazpi Expedition reached these same islands and confirmed that the inhabitants were called Chamurres, a term already reported in Mexico. The southernmost island was called Goam, Goam, Boan, Guan, and Guahan. In the next century when Fr. Diego Luis de Sanvitores led the next expedition to these islands he renamed them the Marianas. Reports dating from his first days there, June 1668, refer to the southernmost island as Guam, Guan, and Guajan.

During the eighteenth century the spelling Guam appears quite consistently in English language documents and persists through the nineteenth century whalers and on into the current American Administration. Spanish documents use Guan, Guahan, and Guajan until late in the last century when Guam begins to appear in occasional official communications.

The initial sound of the name for the southernmost island may have been w, gu, or b. The second sound is clearly a. The third sound may have been represented in Spanish by h, x, or j. The fourth sound may have been an n or m.

The exact name seems to have been obscured in those first moments of contact four centuries ago.

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celebrated the first mass in the Marianas in what must have been a large latte-type boathouse on the beach. The commander of the expedition was under strict orders to retain friendly contact with the islanders and peace obtained until late in their stay. After a young crewman was killed by the islanders, however, brutal fighting broke out and several persons were killed. The ships set sail on Saturday, 3 February, leaving a cross planted on the shore as a symbol of Spain's official claim to the islands and leaving the Chamurres with the bitter memory of another violent encounter with the strangers who appeared off their shores in great ships.

Much ethnological data is contained in the documents of the Legazpi expedition. Of importance to this study is the information concerning the island's name. Two sets of documents were consulted: the Navarrete collection of facsimile manuscripts and the Coleccion de documentos ineditos, containing printed copies of some of the same manuscripts. The following quotations are pertinent to the subject:

From the Navarrete collection:

1. ...dixeron que aquella Ysla se llamaba GOAM...
'...they said that that island was called GOAM...'
2. ...esta Ysla de GOAM es alta y doblada...
'...this island of GOAM is high and curved...'
3. ...dieron por senas a entender llamarse GUAN...
'...by means of signs, they gave to understand it was called GUAN...'

The above documents show the following:

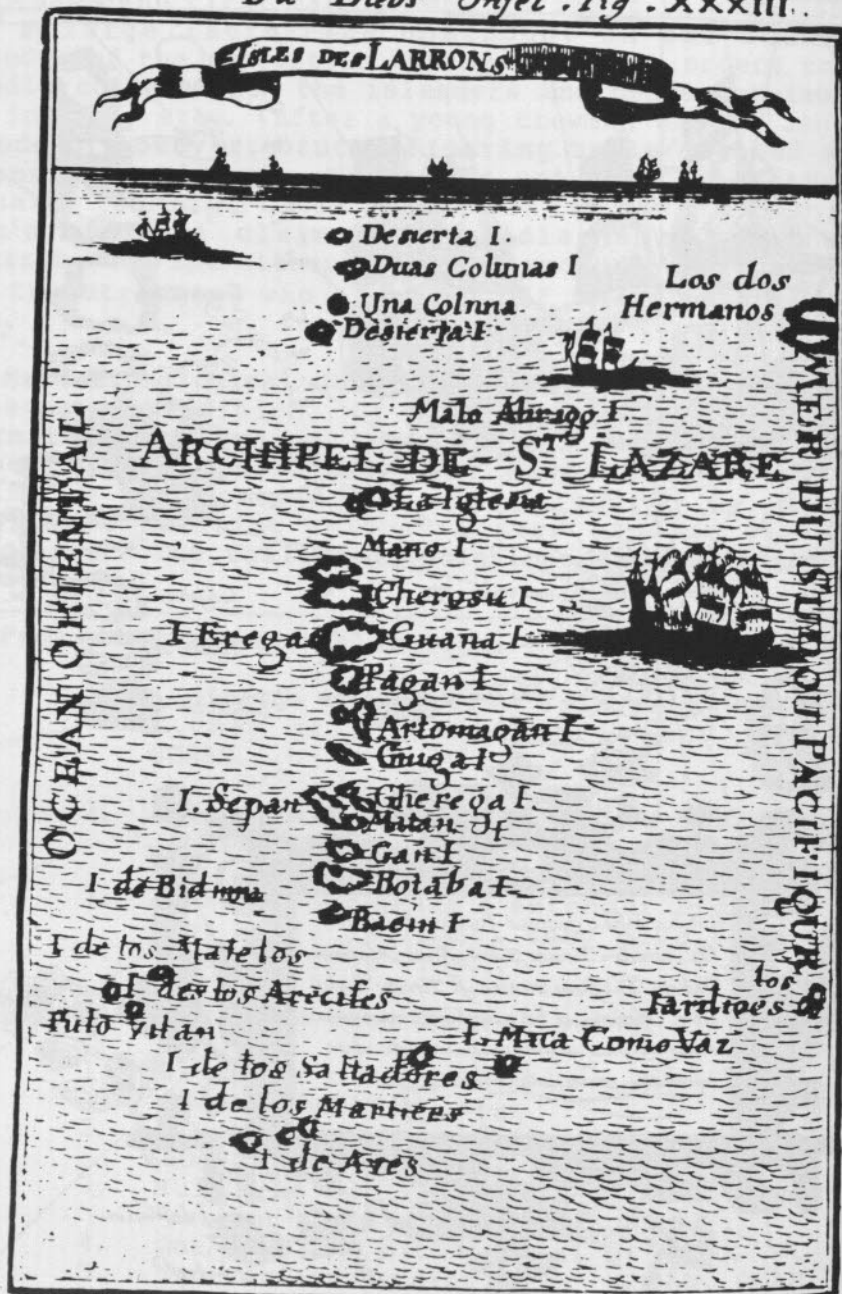
1. Evidence of a possible two-syllable word: GOAM, GUAHAN
2. Five variant spellings: GOAM, GOAM, GUAHAN, BOAN, GUAN
3. Multiple copies of the same document with variant spellings: GOAM, GOAM
4. One spelling with initial b: BOAN
5. Two variants ending in m: GOAM, GOAM
6. Three variants ending in n: GUAHAN, BOAN, GUAN
7. Minor editing in the printed documents in the Coleccion de documentos ineditos, i.e., from GOAM to GOAM; from Ysla to Isla.



Map I.

Gerard Mercator. "Insulae Indine, Orientalis Praecipuae." Amsterdam. 1595.
Abella Collection, No. 27.

Die Diebs Insel . Fig . XXXIII .



Map 2.

Petrus Bertius. "Isles des Larrons." c. 1605.
Nieves Flores Memorial Library Collection.

From Guam the Legazpi expedition continued west to the Philippines to establish a colony. The following few years were occupied both in confirming the return route to New Spain, or Mexico, a route correctly charted by the pilot-priest Urdaneta, and with establishing what was to become a routine trans-Pacific trade route linking the two Spanish possessions on opposite shores of the Pacific. The return leg from Acapulco to Manila was charted to pass through the Mariana chain between Rota and Guam.

By the 1580's the islands of the Chamurres, or Ladrones, were well known to Pacific navigators, and there are numerous references to them on maps, in itineraries, and in other documents of the period.

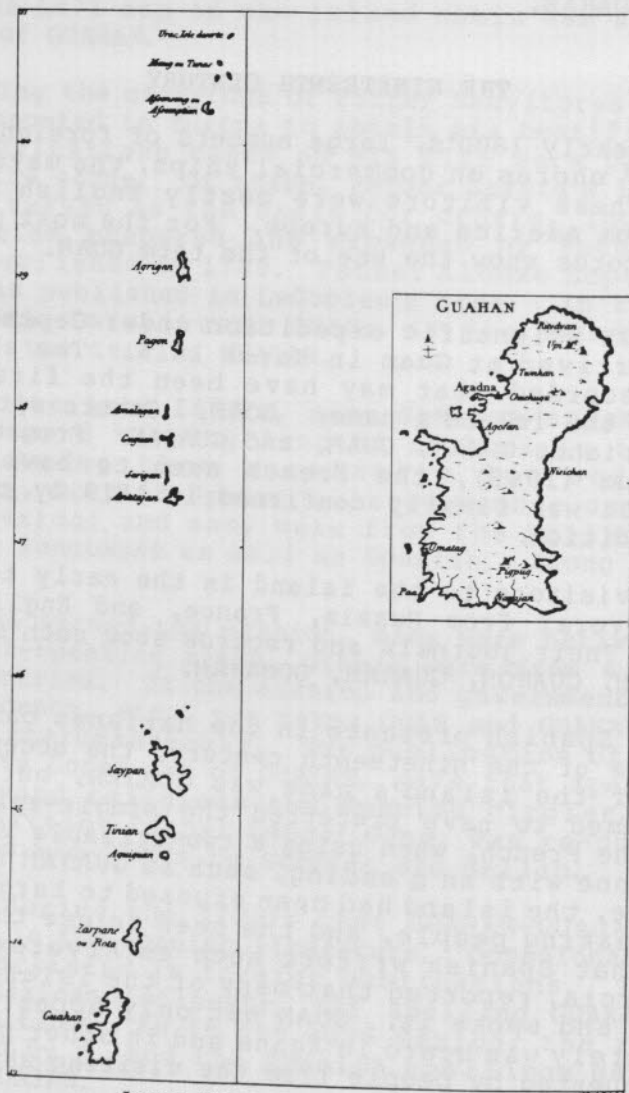
On 3 January 1588, the English pirate, Thomas Cavendish, with captured Spanish navigational charts, passed near the island of Guam and, following the pattern established for the Acapulco ships, was met in the roads between Rota and Guam by the islanders in their canoes, anxious to trade provisions for the only commodity they coveted, hierro, or iron.

The two variant spellings of the island's name found in the literature available for this study concerning Cavendish's visit is important in that they reveal the circumstances governing their appearance, circumstances that are replicated in many published accounts. Three quotations, obviously from the same source, but with slight variations, are listed below with publisher and date of publication.

Harris.	1705	...they had sight of one of the islands LADRONES, called GUAMA...
Burney.	1806	...they came in sight of the LADRONES, and passed near the island GUAHAN...
da Capo.	1967	...we had sight of one of the islands, of LADRONES, called the island of GUANA...

All have been edited to some degree. But the question remains, how much was derived from the original source at hand? Each was printed a century or more later than its predecessor. Burney, in this and other accounts, is consistent in the use of Guahan, possibly the accepted Spanish spelling when his work was published in 1806. In any event, editorial concern for standardization and readability have obscured the historical record, and in the course of time, may have caused the loss of or, at least, the modification of indigenous terms.

...foreigners...all write and call it GUAM, for what reason, we do not know, unless it may be attributed to the first [people] who translated our maps [who] assumed the h to be silent...'



ISLAS MARIANAS. Por P. Alonzo Lopez.

Map 3.

Alonzo Lopez. "Islas Marianas y Guahan." 1671. In Burney, J. Chronological History of the Voyages and Discoveries in the South Sea or Pacific Ocean. Part III. London, 1813; rpt. Amsterdam: DaCapo, 1967, p. 293.

This survey confirms only the first part of Governor de la Corte's statement, because foreigners, quite consistently, did write and call the island GUAM. There is evidence, however, of the use of the single-syllable GUAN-GUAM in Spanish and foreign records long before the publication of Father Lopez' 1671 map, which introduced GUAHAN (and its h) to cartography and, perhaps, to the non-Spanish speaking world.

The Treaty of Peace between the United States and Spain, signed at Paris on 10 December 1898, and as published in Washington, D. C., by the U. S. Government Printing Office in 1899, provided a bi-lingual version of the document. Article II states in part:

...y la Isla de GUAM en el Archipelago de las Marianas o Ladrones...

...and the island of GUAM in the Marianas or Ladrones...

As far as the United States was concerned, the matter seems to have been laid to rest, not only by the Treaty of Peace, but by Governor Richard P. Leary in a message to the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.:

Government House
Agana, Guam, L. I.

Sir:

I have the honor to suggest that the words "LADRONE ISLAND" be omitted from the Official designation of this island and that it be "ISLE OF GUAM, Pacific Ocean."

Respectfully,
Richard P. Leary, U.S.N.
Governor of GUAM

GUAM. A NOMENCLATUREL CHRONOLOGY extracted from a selection of materials deposited in the Spanish Documents Collection at the Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam. Compiled by Marjorie G. Driver.

NAME	DATE	LANG	M/S	UNED	PUBL	MAP	PL	ABBRIEVED CONTEXTUAL CITATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA
1 Velas	1521	S		x				[Magellan] ...descubren dos islas que llamaron de las VELAS Collin, F. Labor evangelica, ed. P. Pastells. (Barcelona, 1921), 1:144.
2 Ladrones	1521	S		x				[Magellan] ...Isla de los LADRONES Ibid., 2:583.
3 Ladrones	1521	S		x				[Magellan] ...las de los LADRONES Ibid., 1:144.
4 Ladrones	1526	S		x				[Loaisa] ...las de los LADRONES Ibid., 2:625.
5 Baham	1544					x		BAHAM Cabot, Sebastian. [Map of the world]. LC Geog. & Maps Div.
6 Goam	1565	S	x					[Legazpi] ...dixeron que aquella Ysla se llamaba GOAM Navarrete, M. ...Viajes... (1837; rpt. Nendeln: Kraus-T. 1971), 17:132.
7 Goam	1565	S	x					[Legazpi] ...esta Ysla de GOAM es alta y doblada Ibid., 17:132.
8 Boan	1565	S	x					[Legazpi. Pierres Plum, French pilot] ...esta Ysla se llama BOANM Ibid., 17:315.
9 Chamurres	1565	S	x					[Legazpi] ...estan las Yslas que llaman de los CHAMURRES o Ladrones Ibid., 17:644.
10 Guahan	1565	S	x					[Legazpi] ...he visto la de GUAHAN Ibid., 17:644.

11 Guan	1565	S		x				[Legazpi] ...una isla de los Ladrones...dieron a entender...llamarse GUAM C.D.I. F2(1):97.
12 Goam	1565	S		x				[Legazpi] ...aquella isla se llamaba GOAM Ibid., p. 237.
13 Ladrones	1580	S	x					...estas Yslas de los LADRONES
14 Velas	1580	S	x					Gessio, J. B. Parecer... RAH. Col. Munoz, A-66. MS, fol. 31. ...por otro nombre se dicen de las VELAS de Maluco Ibid.
15 Ladrones	1583	S	x					...les ha dado nombre de LADRONES
16 Guana	1588	E			1705			Ignacio, Martin. Itinerario. RAH. Col. Munoz, A-70. MS, p. 55. [Cavendish] ...they had sight of one of the Islands Ladrones, called GUANA
17 Guahan	1588	E			1806			Harris, J. Coll. of Voyages & Travels... (London, 1705), p. 27. [Cavendish] ...in sight of the Ladrones, and passed near the Island GUAHAN Burney, J. Chrono. Hist. Voy. ... (1806; rpt. Amst.: DaCapo, 1967), 2:90.
18 Volid	1590	S				x		VOLID Herrera, Antonio. Abella Coll. No. 25. ...hazerse un presidio en la isla de los LADRONES que es puerto...de las naos Collin, 1:178.
19 Ladrones	1591		x					BUBUR Mercator, Gerard. (Amsterdam, 1595). .Abella Coll. No. 27. GUAON
20 Bubur	1595	D				x		
21 Guaon	1595	-						
22 Guan	1596	S		x				Linschoten, Jan H. (Amsterdam, 1596). Abella Coll. No. 26. ...passaron entre las dos Islas GUAN, y la Zarpana
23 Bacim	1596	D				x		Munoz, Ignacio. Parecer... MARC MP No. 12. TS, p. 102. BACIM
24 Bacim	1599	-						Linschoten, Jan H. (Amsterdam, 1596). Abella Coll. No. 24. BACIM Anon. India Orientalis.
25 Chamurres	1600	S		x				...de esclavos de las Islas de los CHAMURRES a Nueva Espana Streit, R. ...Bibliotheca missionum... (Freiburg, 1955), p. 21.

NAME DATE LANG M/S UNED PUBL MAP PL ABRIDGED CONTEXTUAL CITATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

NAME	DATE	LANG	M/S	UNED	PUBL	MAP	PL	ABRIDGED CONTEXTUAL CITATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA
222 Guajan	1891	S	x					...en la isla de GUAJAN; la ciudad de Agana con sus barrios Santos, L. Memoria de... Marianas, LCM. MS No. 3, fol. 2.
223 Guan	1892	S			1892			... La mayor de las Marianas es la de GUAN o Guahan Delgado, J. Historia general sacro-profana... (Manila, 1892), p. 114.
224 Guahan	1892	S			1892			... La mayor de las Marianas es la de Guan o GUAHAN Ibid.
225 Guajan	1894	S			1894			...el ilustre navegante permanecio tres dias en GUAJAN Munoz Barreda, V. Micronesia espanola... (Madrid, 1898), p. 39.
226 Guajan	1894	S	x					...en 1886 de 9.795 habitantes distribuidos en... GUAJAN, Rota Cadarso, L. Informe. (Apostadero de Filipinas, 1894). TS, p. 12.
227 Guajan	1897	S			1897			... Como ya hemos dicho... GUAJAN en la isla mas extensa Campo Exhevarria, A. Espana en Oceania... (Santander, 1897), p. 109.
228 Guam	1898	E			1898			...and the island of GUAM in the Marianas or Ladroneas Pres. of U.S. Message transmitting Treaty of Peace... (Paris, 1898), Art. II.
229 Guam	1898	S			1898			...y la Isla de GUAM en el archipiélago de las Marianas o Ladroneas Ibid.
230 Guam	1899	E	x					Agana, Island of GUAM, Sept. 10, 1899. Safford to Archbish. Baltimore. 10 Sept. 1899. Gibbons Papers. No. 97. ...pero formando parte de la Ysla de GUAM
231 Guam	1899	S	x					Arias Rodriguez, M. Relato de un viaje... RAH. MS, p. 198.
232 Guam	1900	E	x					...the Official designation... be Isle of GUAM, Pacific Ocean Leary to Sec. Navy. Agana, 23 Feb. 1900. Source unknown.
233 Ladrone	1900	E	x					...suggest that the words LADRONE Islands be omitted Ibid.
234 Guam	1900	E				x		GUAM or Guajan In Wheller, J. Report on...Guam. (Washington, 1900).

235 Guam	1900	E			1900			GUAM, also spelled by some...Guam, Guajan, and Guahan Wheller, J. Report on...Guam. (Washington, 1900), p. 17.
236 Guam	1900	E			1900			GUAM Ibid.
237 Guajan	1900	E			1900			GUAJAN Ibid.
238 Guahan	1900	E			1900			GUAHAN Ibid.
239 Guam	1901	S	x		1946			... El ano de 1901 piso tierra de GUAM. Artero y Saez, P. Autobiografia. Agana, 1946 ? TS, p. 3.
240 Guahan	1904	G			1904			...den Hafen von Umatag auf GUAHAN (Guam) Fritz, G. Die Chamorro... (Berlin, 1904), p. 28.
241 Guam	1904	G			1904			...den Hafen von Umatag auf Guahan (Guam) Ibid.
242 Guahan	1905	E				x		GUAHAN or Guam Island U.S. Coast & Geod. Survey. In Safford, Useful Plants. (Washington, 1904).
243 Guam	1905	E			1905	x		Guahan or GUAM Island Ibid.
244 Guam	1914	S			1914			...excepto la isla de GUAM, ...propiedad de los Estados Unidos Enciclopedia Universal... Espasa Calpe. (Madrid, 1930-1933), 33:80. Isla de GUAJAN
245 Guajan	1925	S			1925			Ruiz, L. Sinopsis Historica... Agustinos Recoletos. (Manila, 1925), p. 749.
246 Guam	1951	S			1951			... las Filipinas y GUAM--la habia humillado... tratado hispanoanqui de paz Revista de Indias. Espana en Micronesia, 1951, p. 29.
247 Guam	1951	S			1951			... habiendo quedado muy diezmada la de GUAM por una epidemia Ibid, p. 39.