

1401, 1405.

Canary
Islands.

The Canary Isles, which some pretend, without adducing any sufficient proof, to be the Fortunate Isles, so vaunted by the ancients, were unknown to Europeans till about the middle of the fourteenth century. Genoese and Catalan navigators having acquired some knowledge about 1345, Luis de la Cerda, whose father had been disinherited by Alphonsus X., king of Castile, his grandfather, was shortly after crowned, by Pope Clement VI., king of the Canaries; but he did not take possession of this kingdom, and the Canaries relapsed into oblivion. In the beginning of the fifteenth, or the close of the preceding century, Henry III., king of Castile, gave them to John de Bethancourt, a Norman gentleman; others say to Robert de Braquemont, afterwards Admiral of France, who sent thither John de Bethancourt, Baron of St. Martin le Gaillard, his kinsman. The latter, in 1401, or 1405, made himself master of the isles of Lanzarota, Fuerte Ventura, and Ferro, and was acknowledged as king. Maciot de Bethancourt, his relative and successor, subsequently ceded his rights to the Infante of Portugal, Dom Henry Count de Viseu, who sent thither Ferdinand de Castro, Grand Master of his house. Authors do not agree as to the time when the other islands were discovered. One fact is certain, the king of Castile having protested against the cession of Maciot de Bethancourt, by virtue of his assumed right of sovereignty over the Canaries, a treaty was made between that prince and the Infante of Portugal, whereby these islands were restored to the Crown of Castile, which still possesses them.

1412.

Cape
Bojador.

First voyage of the Portuguese along the coast of Africa. Their voyages for a long time terminated at Cape Bojador, which they durst not double.

1418.

Porto Santo. Discovery of the Island of Porto Santo, by Tristan Vaz and John Gonzales Zarco, Portuguese. They gave it this name because they reached it on All Saints.