

Observation on THE FORMIGAS
by Capt. Nath. Simpson 1783.

These Rocks have been so dreaded by Navigators that some have been so or 40 Leagues out of their Course to avoid them, in most charts, you will find them laid down as very dangerous, and the channel between them and S.ª Maria called Little Passage is represented as not frequented by Shipping. On the said Island of S.ª Maria, I was becalmed in coming from America, and being then within two Leagues of the Formigas, I hoisted my boat out in order to explore them. From the Ship towards the Rocks I kept sounding the East End of S.ª Maria bearing from the Ship W by S distant one League. The Formigas, as you approach them, appear broad fully, Breakers rising higher than a Ship's mast head, although a calm. The Sea ran from the Westward, so had an opportunity of Landing on the East Side of the Rocks, but could find no Soundings, with fifty fathom Line, till within thirty yards of the Rocks. They Bear from the Island of S.ª Maria N.E. by N. distant about three Leagues, extending from North to South about three quarters of a Mile. Close along side of the Formigas is seven fathom water. The Highest Rock is from the surface of the water about sixty feet perpendicular. We Sounded from the Rocks towards S.ª Maria, but could find no bottom with 120 Fathom Line, till within a quarter of a Mile from the Island, which proves that through the Little Passage the Whole Navy of England might run a broad without the least danger.

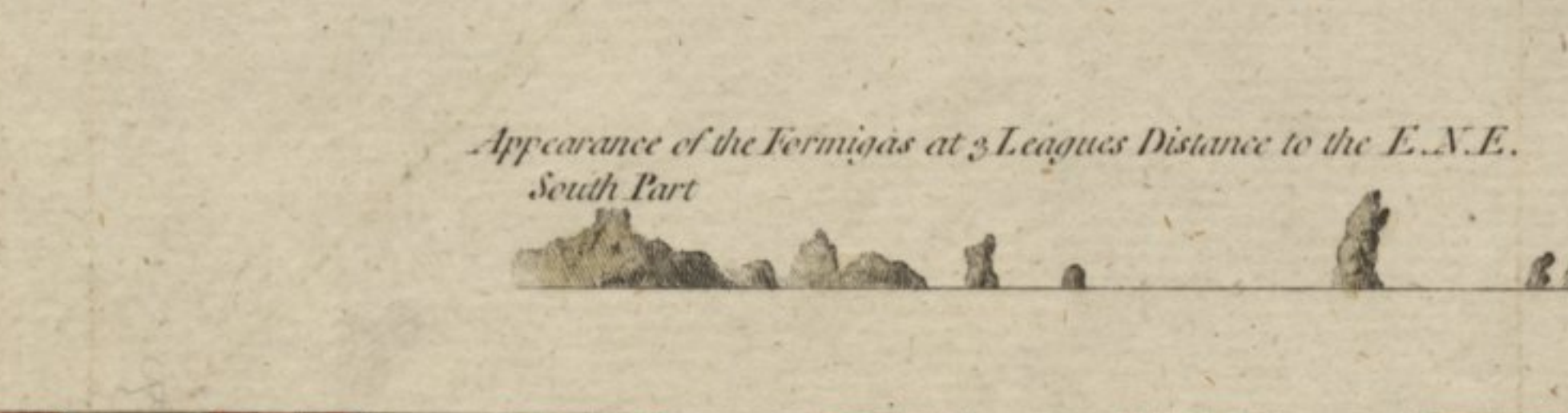
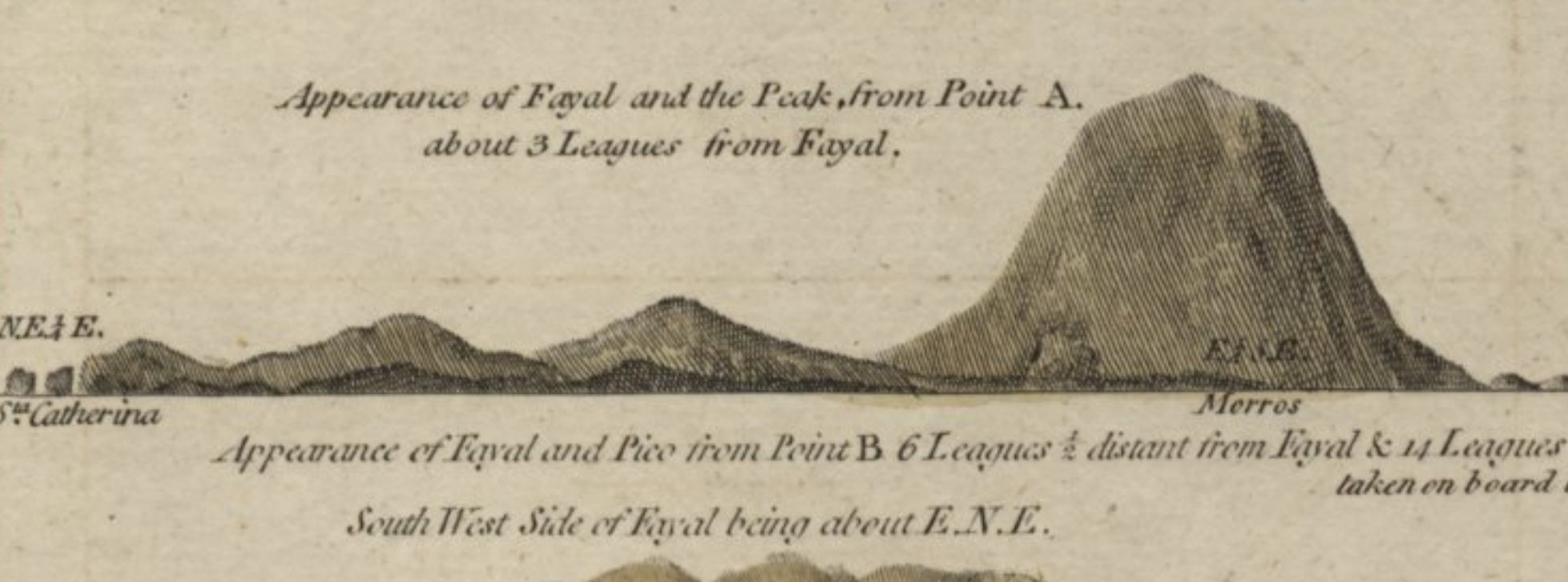
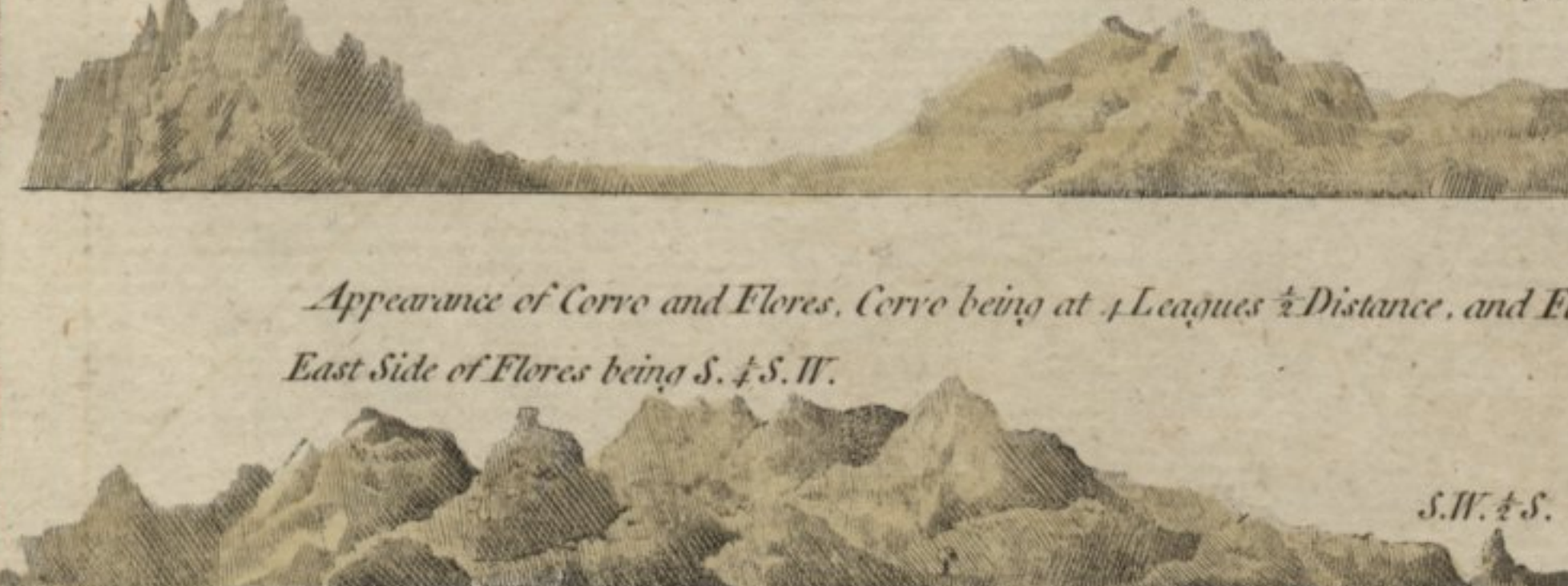
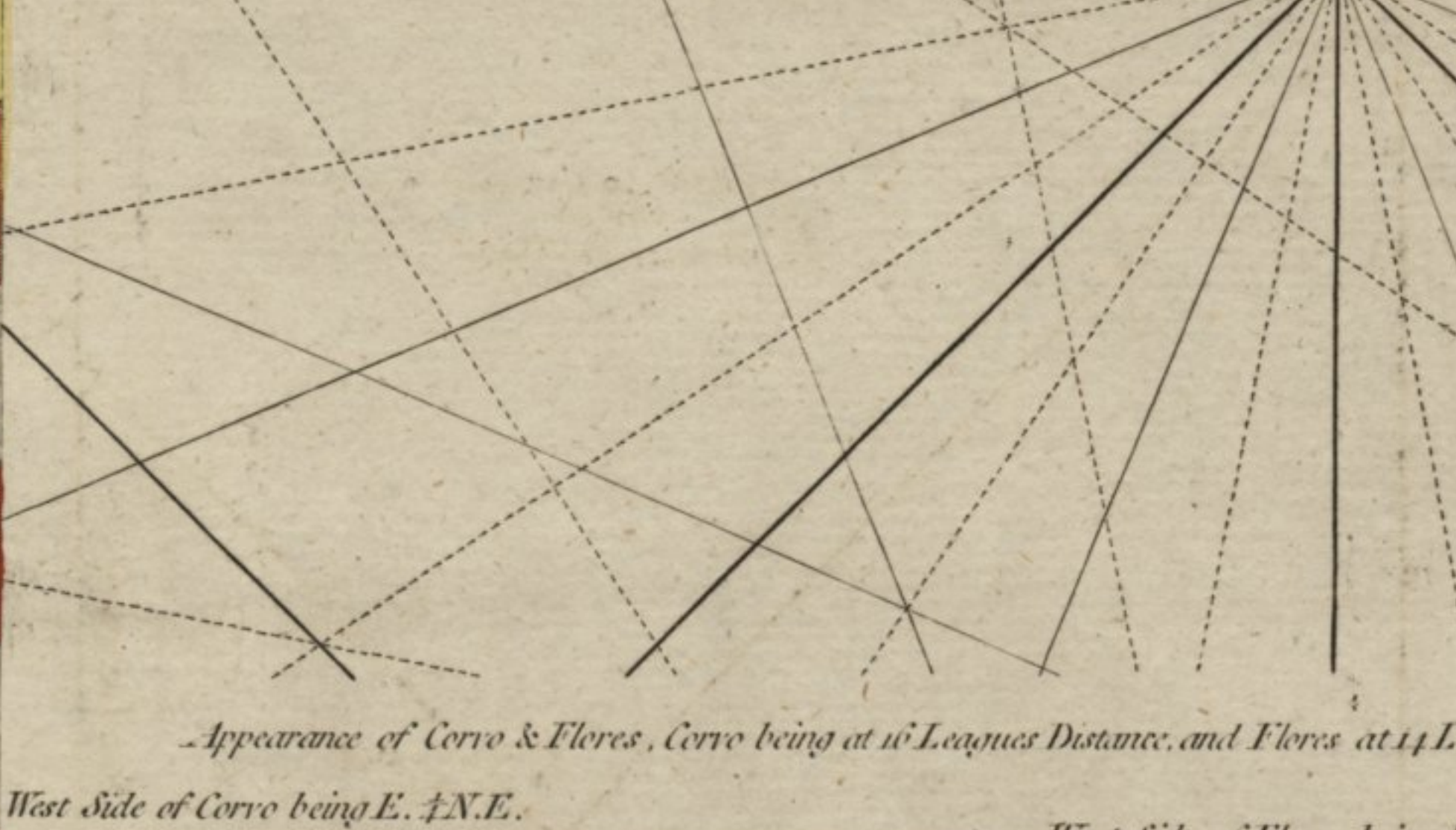
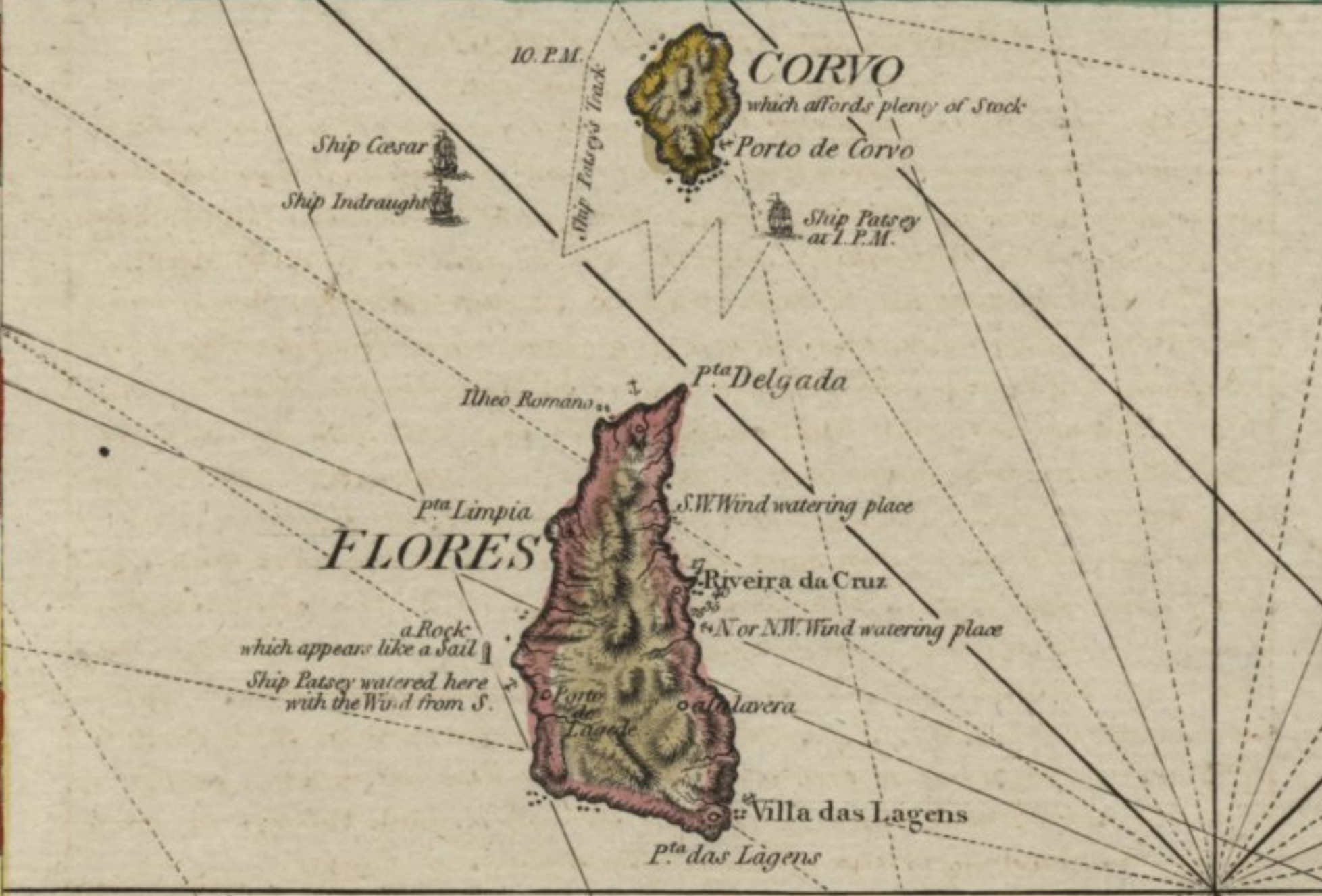


CHART
OF THE
AÇORES (HAWKS) ISLANDS,
called also
FLEMISH AND WESTERN ISLANDS
LONDON
Printed for Robert Sayer as the Act directs.

16991



Agnes JEFFREYS 1899

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