Stabilimenta Militum Hierosolymitanorum, Shelfmark H4. Likely printed Aug. 1496 by Johann Reger, Ulm. Learn more about it at https://museumstjohn.org.uk/collections/stabilimenta-militum-hierosolymitanorum/

The *Stabilimenta* is the first illustrated account of the regulations of the Knights Hospitallers. It was written by Guillaume Caoursin (pictured here), who worked for the order for forty years of his life.

Stabilimento rum Codex.

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Caoursin wrote many books for the Order, most of them about the island of Rhodes, which was the seat of the Hospitallers between 1310 and 1522, and where Guillaume passed away in 1501. The *Stabilimenta* was published alongside several of his works in Ulm, in 1496.

Guilielmus Caoursin vicecancellarius Rhodi.

Editio historiarum

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Throughout the years, Caoursin worked under three different Grand Masters of the Order, the last of these being Pierre d'Aubusson – who wrote the introduction to the *Stabilimenta*, and is likely pictured here.
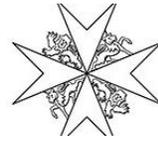
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The Knights Hospitallers can be recognised in these illustrations thanks to the Maltese Cross present on their clothing. Here, you can see a knight standing inside the city walls.
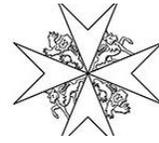
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Beyond their military aspect, the Knights Hospitallers were also diplomats. The Latin caption of this illustration (cropped) indicates that this may have represented a meeting with officials from Alexandria, in Egypt.
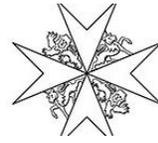
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Here, a knight is meeting with a notable Ottoman – maybe Cem Sultan or his older brother Bayezid II, 8th Padishah (Sultan of the Ottoman Empire). Bayediz II was the grandfather of the famous Suleiman the Magnificent, who would eventually conquer Rhodes.
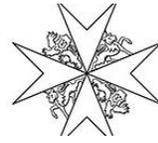
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It seems that taking your hat off when greeting someone is a long-standing tradition! A delegation of Knights greets some fellow travellers.
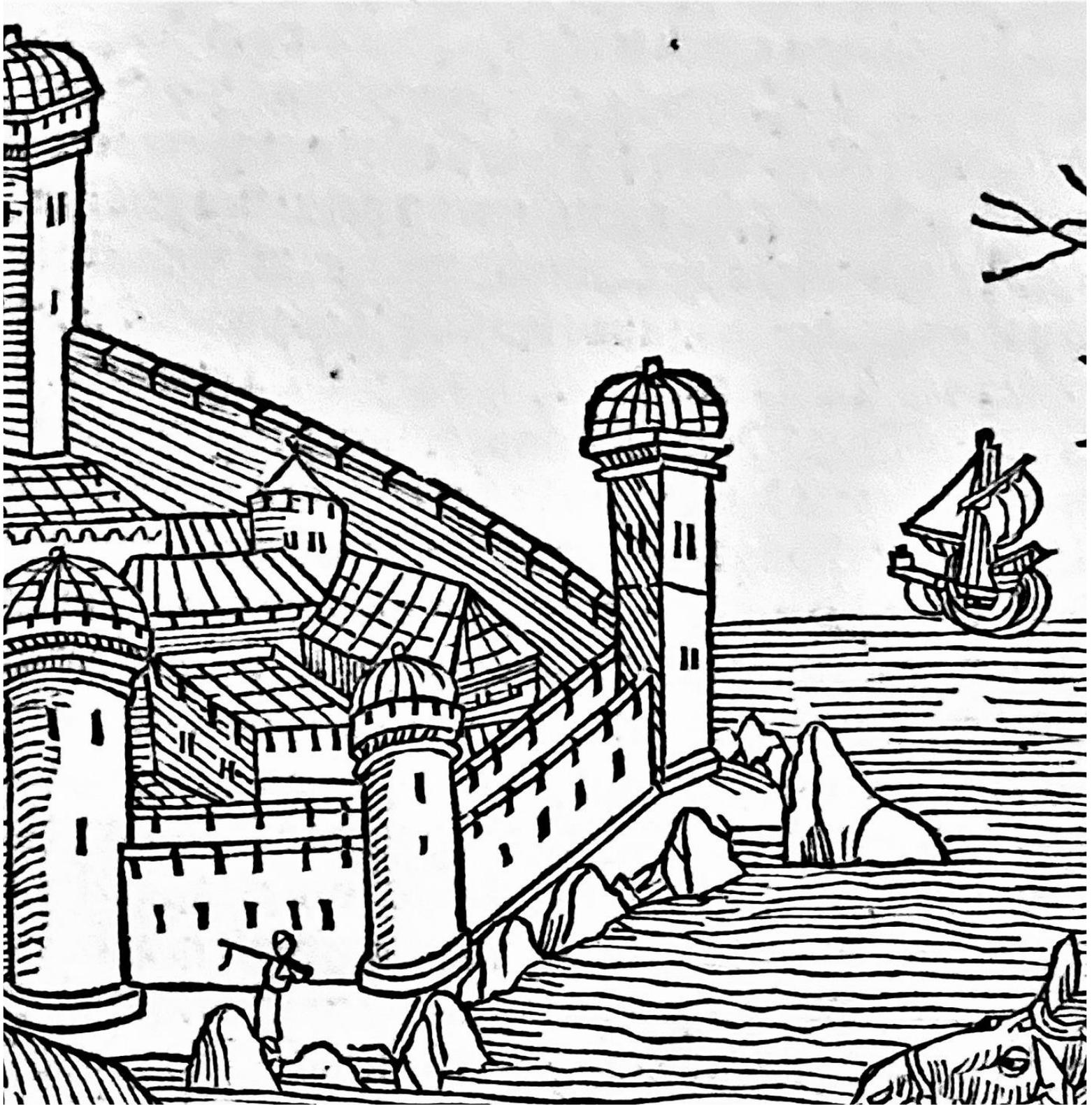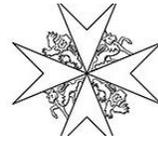
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In this detail above the two groups meeting, we can see a ship leaving the city.

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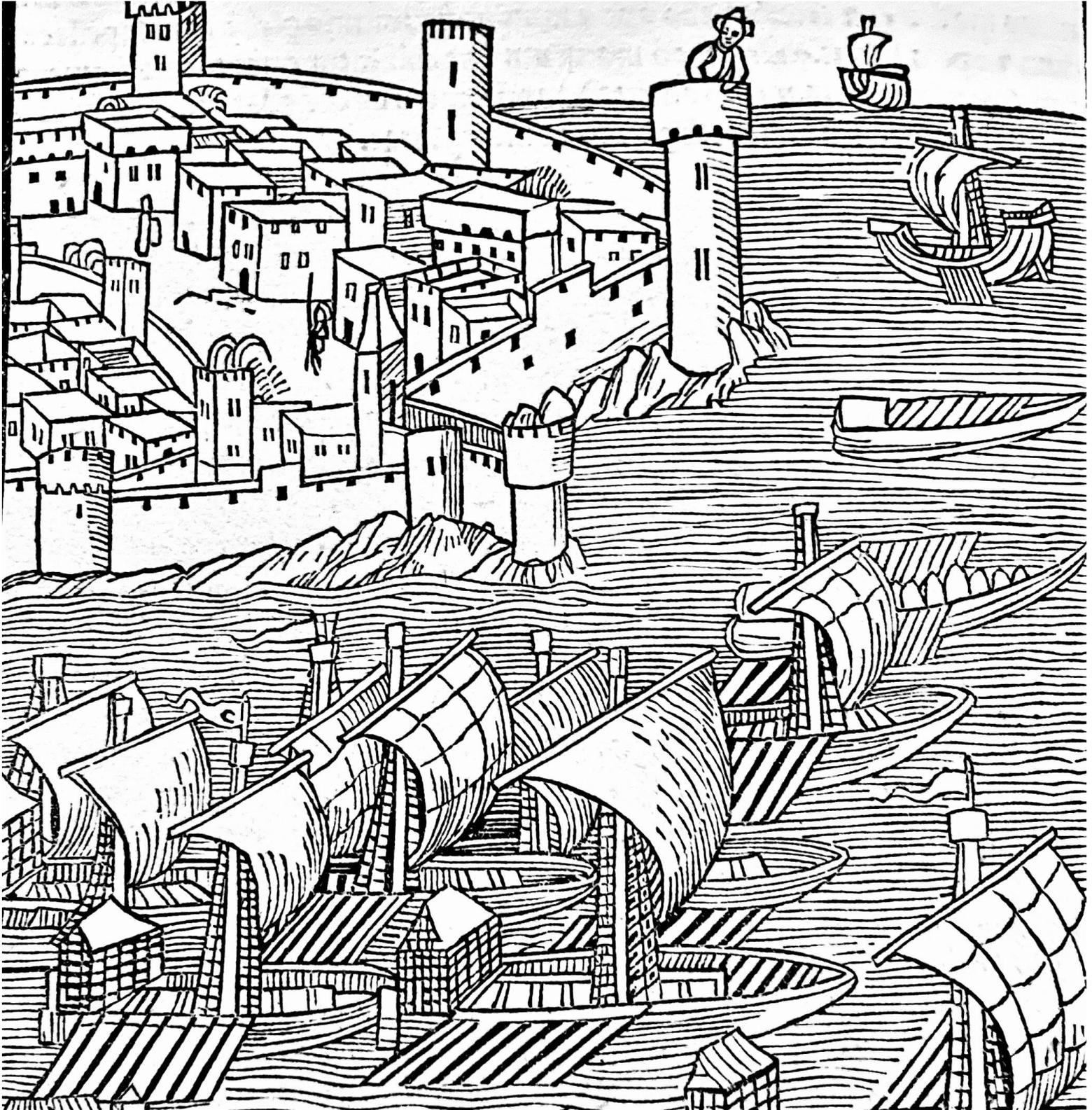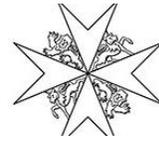
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While never very large, the Hospitallers' navy grew after their arrival on Rhodes, allowing them to better defend the island from pirates and other potential attackers. They also used it to support other military Orders around the Mediterranean Sea.

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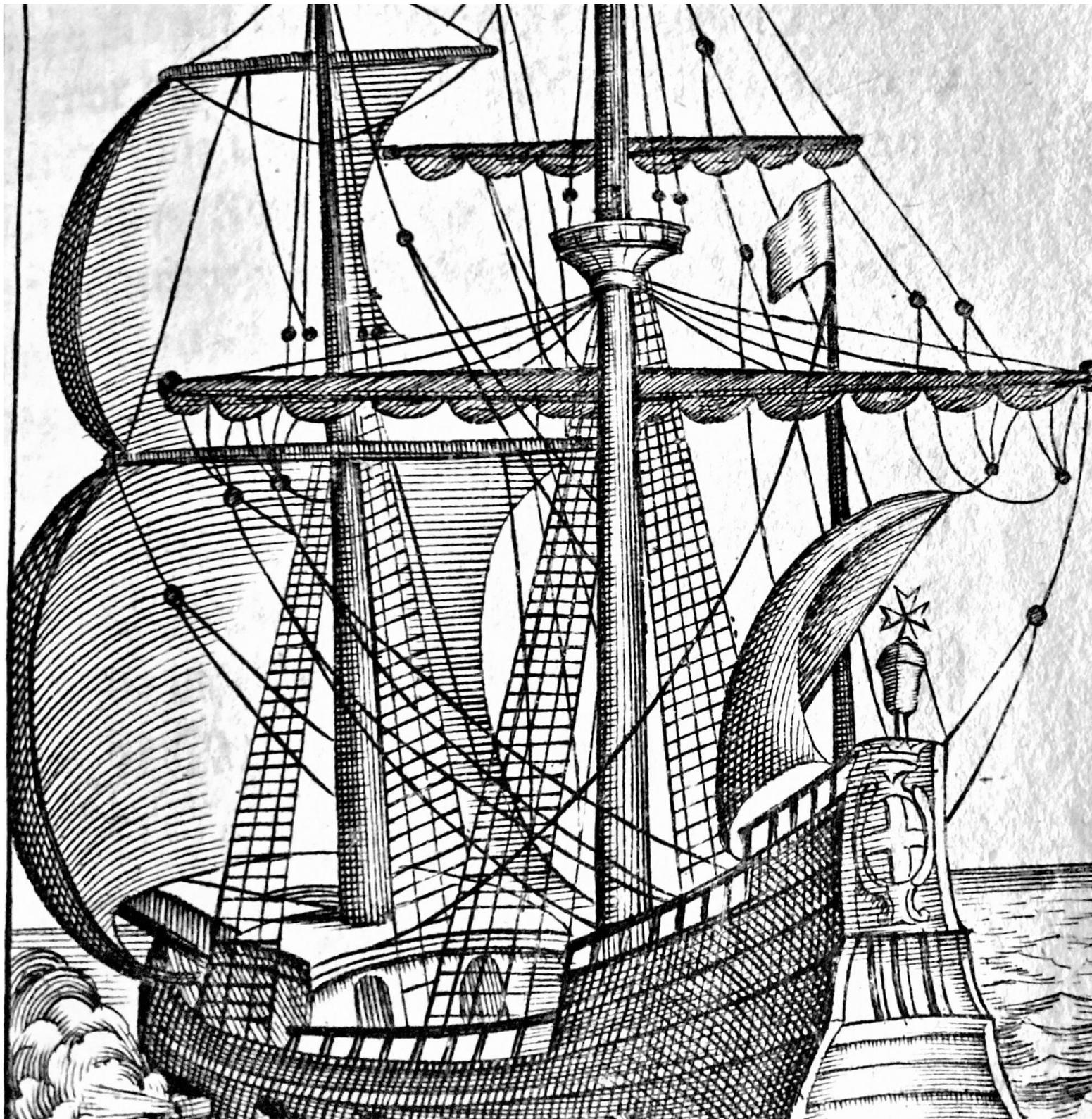
Plate from *Eigentlicher und gründlicher Bericht...*, A3.5. Christian von Osterhausen, plate by W. Kilian, 1650.

This very complete history of the Knights Hospitallers – now Knights of Malta – is illustrated by several beautiful plates. This one might represent the famous Santa Anna, the first carrack of the Knights.

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