

# *PLUS ULTRA* FURTHER BEYOND

Innovation, Discovery, and Change  
in the Early Modern Period

An Exhibition at Pitts Theology Library  
Spring 2024

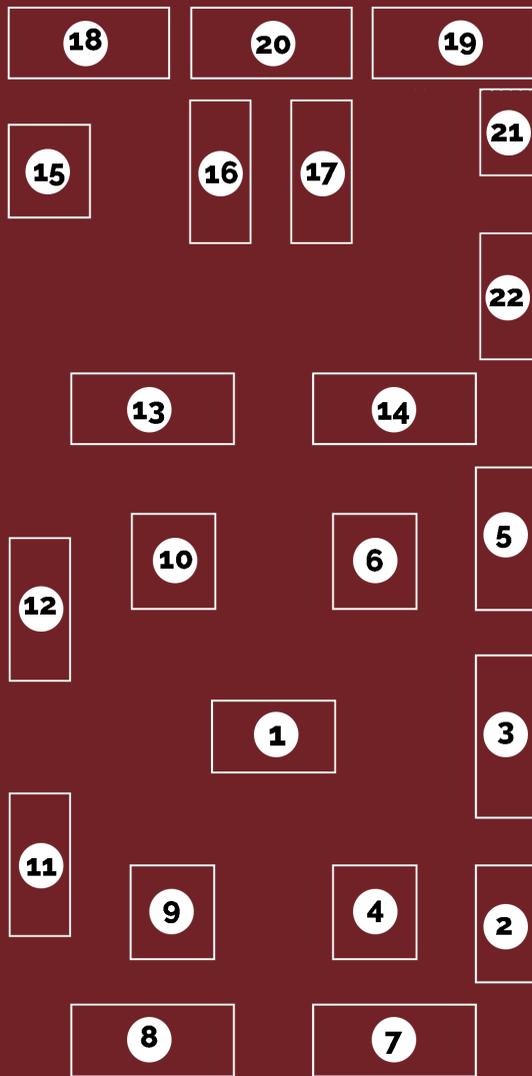
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*Plus Ultra*—literally “further beyond”—was the motto chosen by Charles V (1500-1558). It is a direct allusion to the phrase *Non Plus Ultra* (“nothing further beyond”) allegedly inscribed on the Pillars of Hercules (the classical name for the Strait of Gibraltar) and used on some medieval maps to indicate that there was no land to the West of the Mediterranean Sea. The explorations of Christopher Columbus negated this claim and the literary discoveries of the Renaissance denied the broader implication that it was unsafe to stray beyond the confines of what is traditionally known and accepted. *Plus Ultra* exemplifies the spirit of the early modern period, a spirit that prompted discoveries and often rapid developments and changes in science, art, politics, religion, and other facets of life and civilization.

## GALLERY LAYOUT & CASE DESCRIPTIONS

**Case 1:** *Plus Ultra*: Motto of Charles V  
Exemplifies the Spirit of the Age

**Case 2:** The Printing Press

**Case 3:** Early Modern Medicine

**Case 4:** Modern Anatomy

**Case 5:** Astronomy

**Case 6:** A Heliocentric Model

**Case 7:** Nuremberg Chronicle: Latin

**Case 8:** Nuremberg Chronicle: German

**Case 9:** Münster’s World Chronicle

**Case 10:** Discoveries & Explorations

**Case 11:** Political Change

**Case 12:** Change & Conflict

**Case 13:** Religious & Secular Authority

**Case 14:** Beyond Europe: Other  
Languages & Religions

**Case 15:** Handel’s *Messiah*

**Case 16:** Music

**Case 17:** Common Speech & Everyday  
Language

**Case 18:** Albrecht Dürer

**Case 19:** Lucas Cranach, the Elder

**Case 20:** Innovations Before Their Time

**Case 21:** The *Encyclopédie méthodique*

**Case 22:** Medical Advances in China:  
Li Shizhen