

# Re: Verrazano, Maps, and Newport Tower

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2007-05/msg00376.html>

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- *From:* David B <[tronospamchos@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:tronospamchos@xxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 25 May 2007 07:32:38 GMT
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Gareth wrote:

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Just found this link:

<http://www.newsday.com/community/guide/lihistory/ny-history-hs215a1v.0.656898.story>

to a 1910 translation of Giovanni da Verrazano's Report to Francis I,

July 8, 1524, The History of the Dauphine and Its Voyage, in full.

Interestingly, there's nothing, at all, in the report that could be interpreted as referring to Newport Tower.

I'm aware of the dangers of not quoting from the \*original\* documents, but that doesn't stop cranks claiming that Verrazano "described a Norman Villa in Naragansett Bay in 1524" (a common statment round the web), so I thought I'd point out that he does no such thing.

The word "normanvilla" does appear on this 1527 map (or rather facsimile thereof) by Verrazano's associate Vesconti Maggiolo

[snip]

<http://www.mapsofpa.com/17thcentury/1527maggiolo.jpg>

(north on the left) – shows "normanvilla" as a place name, near "Refugio" but this clearly proves nothing – elsewhere on the map is "longavilla", for example, and the names on the map are all place names, not descriptions of things on the coast.

More cherished "Newport Tower is shown on pre-colonial maps" nonsense bites the dust...

For much more of the same, including quotations from Verrazano's report in the original Italian, see my page: <http://www.trochos.freereserve.co.uk/newport1.htm>

David B.

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