Pick of the Week

Historical Atlas of the North Pacific Ocean: Maps of Discovery and Scientific Exploration 1500-2000, by Derek Hayes, Douglas & McIntyre, 224 pages, $75

This gorgeous book about the North Pacific and the shores around it is copiously illustrated with 500 years of drawings, paintings and, especially, maps, beginning with the largely imaginative efforts of the early European cartographers — such as the one above, from Jodocus Hondius's world map of 1589 — and continuing through today, when sonic imaging and satellite photographs keep mapmakers up to the minute on the minutest changes of coastlines and even the bottom of the ocean. Hayes's text charts the progress of exploration and mapmaking, as travellers in the North Pacific solved the mysteries and filled in the knowledge gaps over the years. All the important voyages of discovery are detailed, and illustrated by the explorers' maps or those of contemporaries.