ZHENG HE’S MING EXPEDITIONS:
1405-1433

Zheng He's fleets, which numbered 200 ships, sailed on a series of voyages across the Indian Ocean as far as Arabia and the east coast of Africa, and throughout the islands of Southeast Asia. The ships returned laden with goods and exotic plants, as well as prisoners of war (including the King of Ceylon). Zheng's fleets used force on three occasions: in Sumatra in 1404, in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1410, and in Sumatra in 1413, mainly against Chinese pirates.
Two depictions of comparison between a Ming Treasure ship and Columbus’ largest caravel, the Santa Maria.
The pet giraffe of the Sultan of Bengal (in South Asia), brought from Medieval Somalia (on the Swahili Coast of East Africa), and later taken to China in 1415 by Admiral Zheng He.