

Patrick Pasin

The Mystery of the Ancient Maps



**Those extraordinary anomalies which
question the history of humanity**

EDIZIONE
TALMA

"Christopher Columbus, Discoverer of the New World"



Detail of a painting in the map room
of the Vatican, Rome

Collection "Mysteries"

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Introduction

From ancient times, men began to cover distances, and oceans gradually stopped being obstacles. Their maps, namely those that survived till our time, show a fragmented representation of the Earth, because it was limited to the three known continents: Africa, Asia and Europe.

Then came the late 15th century, which constituted the major and final breakthrough: after the discovery of America by Europeans, the picture of the world was never going to be the same. Neither will the world be the same again.

To arrive at this stage, it only required a couple of years, which proceeded and started the Renaissance. Thus, in less than five years, they bypassed the tip of the most southern part of Africa for the very first time, and America was discovered. In five years, the essentials were achieved, although there will be other stages in the great maritime explorations.

Here are the main ones, arranged in chronological order, such as in the academic teachings of history:

1) The Circumvention of Africa

At the head of a fleet of three ships, Bartholomew Diaz left Lisbon in August 1487 to explore the African coast. In December, he arrived at what is today known as Namibia. He continued his journey southward.

Caught in a heavy storm, he was carried by the winds from the Atlantic and became the first European traveler to cross the edge of the southern part of Africa, which was referred to as the “Cape of Good Hope” after his return.

He continued along the East coast, heading towards the North, but a riot amongst his ship crew forced him to turn back. He returned to Lisbon in December 1488, after a journey of over a year and a half.

2) The Discovery of America

It is needless going into details: everyone knows that Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. It is an established fact, which is indisputable and has been undisputed for a long time now.

3) The Expeditions towards the Indies

Ten years after Bartholomew Diaz, on July 8th 1497, Vasco da Gama left Lisbon on a mission to go around Africa and reach India through the Indian Ocean. He landed in Calicut, which is today in the State of Kerala, on May 21st 1498, i.e. after ten months of journeying.

He embarked on his second trip in 1502, heading a larger fleet of twenty-one ships.

Then a third trip in 1524, but Vasco da Gama died shortly after his arrival in India, on December 24.

4) The Circumvention of America

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer and navigator who worked under the services of the

King of Spain, Charles I, who later became the powerful Charles V, left Seville in September 1519, and headed towards the southern part of America. The aim was to find a route through the west that led to the East Indies.

After many misadventures, such as a rebellion, shipwreck, desertion... Magellan entered in October 1520 a strait which now bears his name, before circumventing what was later known as “Tierra del Fuego.” He then ventured into an ocean which he named the “Pacific,” due to the calmness of its waters.

The ship crew sailed northwards, towards the Indies, but Magellan never made it there: he was killed at the battle of Mactan on April 27th 1521, by the natives of that small Philippines Island.

Victoria, the last ship of the expedition, left the Moluccas archipelago, at the eastern part of Indonesia, on December 21st 1521, and crossed the Indian Ocean, passing through the Cape of Good Hope, and then headed up towards Spain.

After almost exactly three years from their departure, the eighteen surviving crew members reached the province of Cádiz, on September 6th 1522, thereby becoming the first Europeans to have sailed round the world—what is now referred to as “circumnavigation.”

5) The Discovery of Australia

This discovery is generally attributed to James Cook, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, in 1770. In fact, it seemed to have been discovered by the Portuguese explorer Cristóvão de Mendonça in about 1522, i.e. two and a half centuries earlier.

The Spanish Luis Váez de Torres would have sailed off the coast of Australia in 1605, but it was the Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon who became officially known to be the first European to have landed in what is today known as Queensland (at the northeast) on February 26th 1606.

6) The Circumnavigation of America

It was not before 1741 and Vitus Bering, the Danish explorer who worked for the Russian Navy, that the Western world would know for certain that America and Asia were two separate continents. The strait that separates them now bears the name of its official discoverer.

7) The Discovery of Antarctica

This continent was only officially discovered in 1820. A Russian expedition approached the coast but it did not land. Then, an American ship landed on the coast of Antarctica in 1821, i.e. one year later. French navigators unsuccessfully attempted to reach the magnetic pole in 1840; this was followed by other unsuccessful attempts that continued until the end of the 19th century.

It was only in December 1911 that Roald Amundsen, a Norwegian, managed to reach the South Pole.

Logically, the evolution of maps should correspond

to the main stages of these great maritime discoveries. It is therefore impossible to see America on a map that was drawn before 1492.

However, this is one of the numerous anomalies that are presented in this book. Most of which have already been pointed out by other authors who were also perplexed about the incompatibilities between these ancient maps and the chronology of events taught by academic history, but they were quickly discredited by the “official” historians. So, why not check this out on our own since many ancient maps are available on the Internet, notably via the Wikimedia Commons site.

At the beginning of the research, the studied maps didn't show any anomaly, until we came across a first, and then a second Arabic map from the 10th century. They came as a blow, from where many more surprises followed. These led to the production of this book and the documentary titled “The Mystery of the Ancient Maps,” produced by this same author.

It seems unimaginable that the academic historians failed to make these observations, since these anomalies were clearly visible, just by looking at these maps.

What therefore could justify their silence?

Is it because this could not only question the great discoveries, but also partially question the history of mankind?

So what? Is it not the duty of a historian to review and rectify the errors and inaccuracies of his colleagues of the past? Why then do they keep quiet on the anomalies concerning this obvious topic? Are they prisoners of an official "dogma" that prevents them from at least asking questions which answers are clearly given by these maps?¹

1. The maps presented in this book, including those in the form of sketches, can all be found on the Wikimedia Commons platform (<https://commons.wikimedia.org>) and better still, in departments and museums where they are kept.

Notwithstanding, it is now up to you to look at, and explore the time and to go through the areas left out by our ancestors. You will not emerge unscathed. All the more as we start with a thunderbolt.

Chapter 1

The Arab Travelers

1) Al-Masudi

Abū al-Hasan 'Alī ibn al-Husayn ibn 'Alī al-Mas'ūdī, known by the name of Al-Masudi, was born in Baghdad at the end of the 9th century and died in Egypt in 956. A historian and geographer, enriched by his numerous trips to Asia, he wrote a great deal on the history and geography of the world throughout his life... Indeed, he visited Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Eastern coast of Africa, India, and many others.

Most of his books, about twenty, have been lost, but at least two still remain: “The Golden Meadows” and “The Book of the Warning and Revision.”



Here is how he represented the world before 1000 AD:



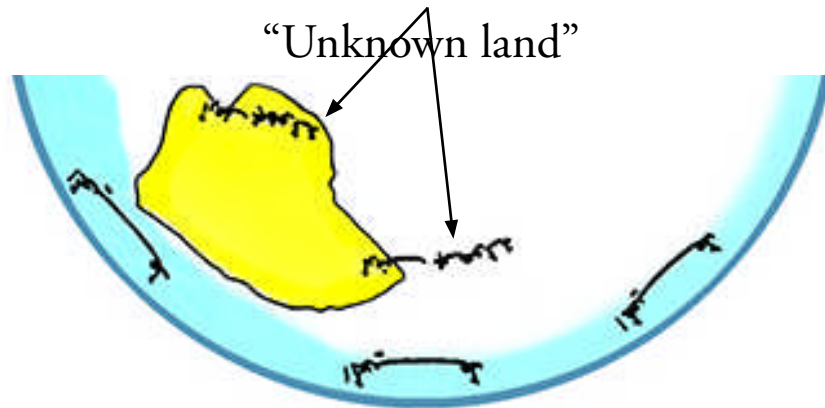
(reconstruction)

As with most Arab cartographers of the time, the South was positioned at the top. Let's put the map in the North-South direction:

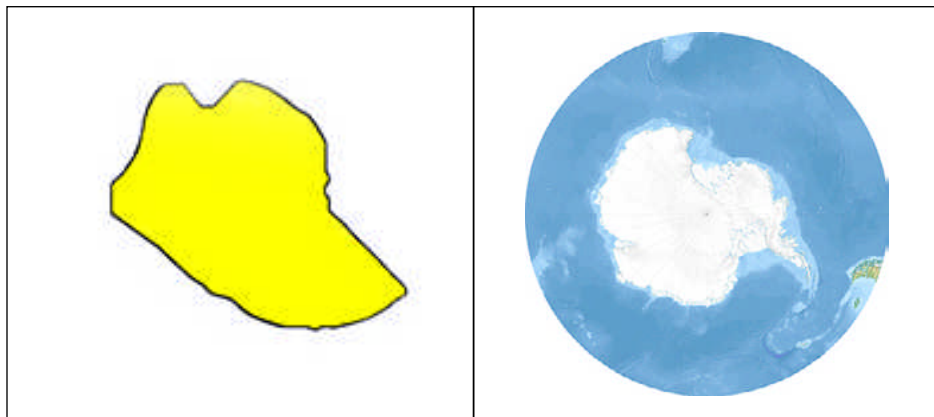


We recognize Europe, Asia, and then Africa beneath the Mediterranean.

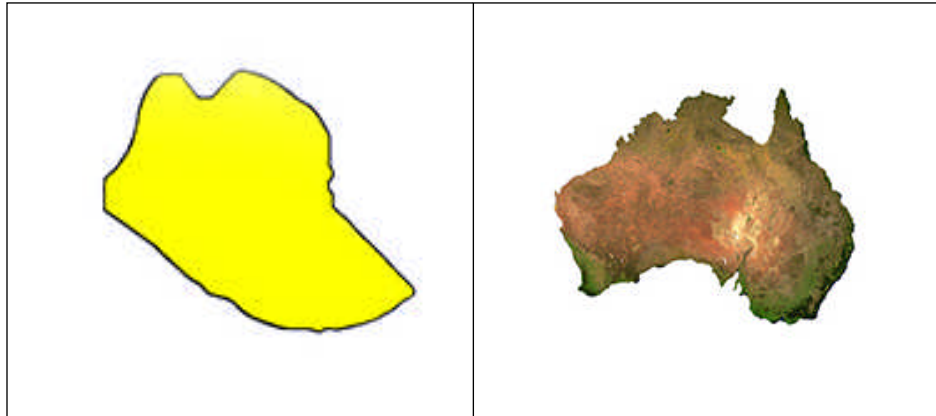
Yet, surprisingly, Al-Masudi added a fourth continent in the South, which was almost the same size as Africa. The text on it means “unknown land”:



What could that continent be? There are only three possibilities: Antarctica, Australia or America. The South Pole is likely to be dismissed at once: it has no resemblance to the Al-Masudi continent.



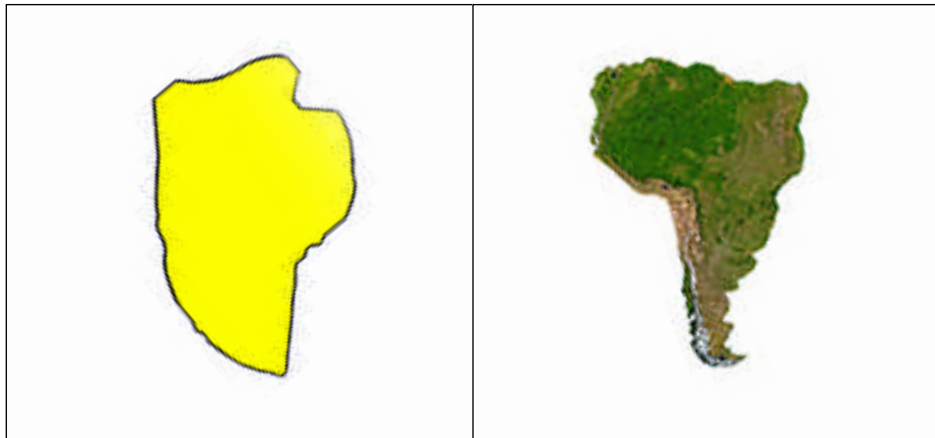
Could it be Australia? It was officially explored for the first time only six centuries later. Compared with a satellite photo, the resemblance is not insignificant, but Australia cannot be positioned to the West of Africa. Moreover, its size and proportions are absolutely inconsistent with Al-Masudi's continent:



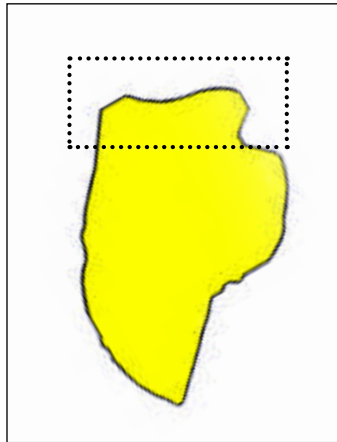
In contrast, the American continent is across from Africa:



Al-Masudi's continent clearly resembles South America, with Brazil at the top:



It therefore means that North America is lacking, unless we assume that the top part of the map represents North America:



Its size would have then been over-reduced and it is also obvious that Central America is lacking too. The most logical hypothesis is that the southern part of the continent was better known than the North.

Thus, for over a millennium, the Muslim world already knew of the existence of another continent that was as big as Africa. Between Australia and America, America is the most convincing option, not to say “the only one.”

Although he travelled a lot, Al-Masudi had not been there; otherwise he would not have labeled it as the “unknown land.”

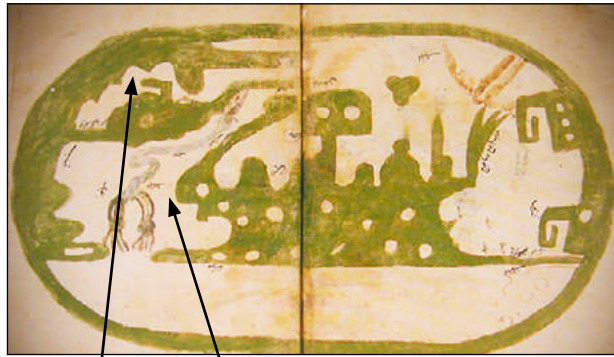
Thus, from what sources was he inspired so as to draw his map? No one knows, and it remains a mystery.



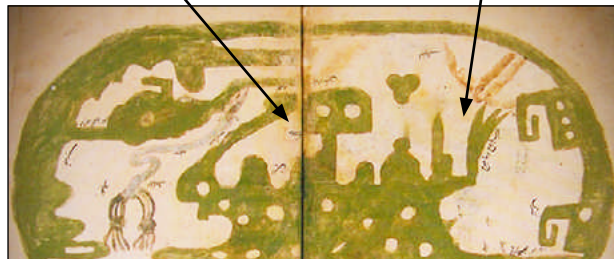
2) Ibn Hawqal

Mohammed Abul-Qasim ibn Hawqal was an amazing character: he spent thirty years of his life traveling to Asia and Africa, between the years 943 to 969. In 977, he wrote his book “The Face of the Earth.”

Having extensively traveled through the world, here's how he described it (water is in green):



There is Europe and Africa, with the Nile, which the Muslim world already knew had several sources. There is Mecca, the Arabian Peninsula, Asia with China.



And finally, at the far end in the East, appears a continent as large as Africa. Moreover, it is independent.



Can it be anything else but America?
We would have:



The mountains of the Kamchatka Peninsula and of eastern Siberia are the only ones represented on the map, which is surprising: although he has traveled extensively, it is difficult to imagine that Ibn Hawqal has gone to the end of the world.



We would also have:

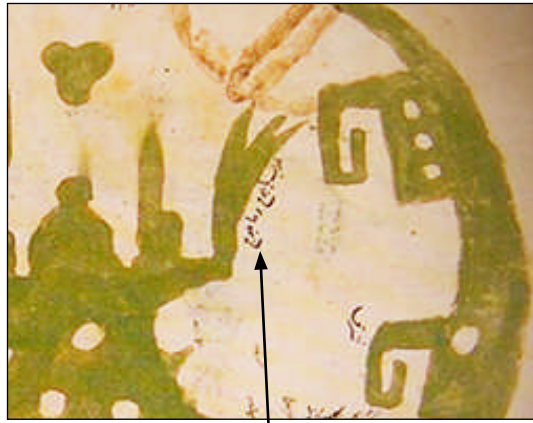


the Bering Strait

the islands
of Canada

Cuba and/or
Caribbean
islands

America represented on an Arab map of the 10th century! Isn't it amazing compared to the official history of its discovery by Christopher Columbus, five centuries later? This is further evidence that the continent was already known more than a thousand years ago.

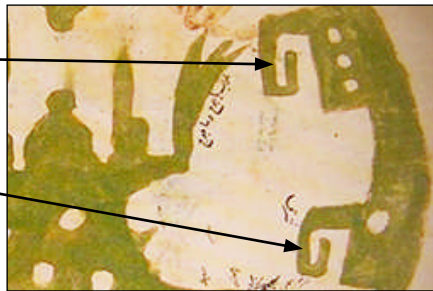


Another surprise is this text which seems posterior. Its translation means “the ruins of Yajouj and Majouj.” These are the Arab variants of Gog and Magog, the allies of evil in the Bible. Thus, they are located in North America!

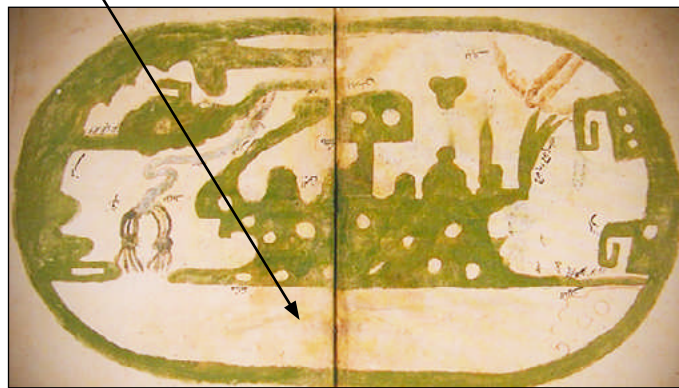
They appear twice in the Quran, mainly in Sura 18, called “Sura of the Cave.”

In this Sura, a character called Dhul-Qarnayn also appears, but we do not know who he is. Some commentators speculate that he was Alexander the Great or Cyrus the Great, founder of the Persian Empire.

This name of Dhul-Qarnayn literally means “the possessor of two horns.” But Ibn Hawqal drew two horns on his map. Was Dhul-Qarnayn the mysterious master of America?



Another impossibility for that time: Ibn Hawqal drew Antarctica fairly close to modern maps.



Let's recall that this continent was not supposed to have been seen until 900 years later! Who went there at the time of Ibn Hawqal or before?

Another element that struck us when we compared Al-Masudi's and Ibn Hawqal's maps which were drawn in the 10th century, only thirty years apart: Al-Masudi placed America to the West, more precisely in the Southwest, while Ibn Hawqal put it in the East, as modern maps drawn from Asia:



This implies that the two geographers did not have the same sources, but mainly that the American continent had been reached both through the Atlantic and the Pacific!

This also means that the full circumnavigation of the globe had been done more than a thousand years ago, at least 500 years before Christopher Columbus' first journey.

Not only do these maps show that the two oceans were crossed, but also that the trip around America was made, because it is detached from other continents and the southern part was pretty well drawn.

Ibn Hawqal's map presents even more surprising points, because it shows that the continent is independent from the South Pole. Also, on the contrary, he connected Africa to Antarctica with the Nile having its source between the two continents. Thus, when this map was drawn, the trip around America had already been done, but not that of Africa! This is, of course, unbelievable ... Nevertheless, it is before our eyes.



Therefore, where had Al-Masudi and Ibn Hawqal obtained their sources? From older maps? Let's seek them and begin to study the maps of Antiquity.

Chapter 2

Antiquity

1) Babylon

One of the earliest maps of the world, that we still have, is that of Babylonian origin and dates from the 6th century BC.

Discovered in the South of Iraq towards the late 19th century, it is preserved today in the British Museum.



On this clay tablet are represented Babylon, Assyria,
the Euphrates, surrounded by a circular ocean.



In addition, there are seven islands, according to
the text written in cuneiform.

It is impossible to know what these islands represent
exactly to the Babylonians, or even whether one of
these islands is America.

In any case, this map is clearly not our Arab travelers'
source.

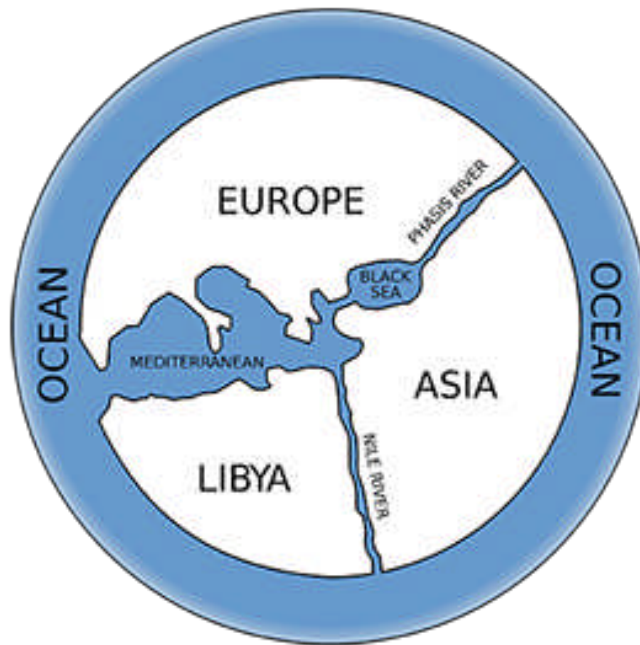
2) Anaximander

According to the Greek Eratosthenes, Anaximander was the first to draw a world map. We can reasonably assume that the opinion of Eratosthenes was justified, because he was in charge of the fabulous library of Alexandria in the 3rd century BC, which had up to 700,000 books at the time of Julius Caesar. He thus had access to all the manuscripts, or almost all those known in the Mediterranean world and beyond.

Anaximander is the first author of a map whose name has come to us. We even have a bas-relief of the Antiquity that represents him.

Living in the 6th century before Christ, he was a mathematician, a philosopher and geographer, and it is said that Thales was his teacher and Pythagoras was his student.

Here is the hypothetical reconstitution of the world map according to Anaximander — “Hypothetical” since we no longer have a copy:



We distinguish three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa (then called “Libya”). They are separated by the Mediterranean, the Nile and the Phasis River, which is now the Don River. There is no trace of America, not even of the Poles.

Anaximander was therefore not the source for Al-Masudi and Ibn Hawqal. Nevertheless, Greek authors became inspired by his map and refined it as time went on.

3) Hecataeus of Miletus, Herodotus and Eratosthenes

Hecataeus of Miletus (c. 550–c. 480 BC), considered today as one of the fathers of geography, completed Anaximander's map, mainly thanks to his trips to Egypt and Asia:



As for Herodotus (c. 484–c. 425 BC), one of the fathers of history, his numerous trips enabled him to draw the world map that was known by the Greeks towards the end of the 5th century BC:



The errors are obviously numerous: the Nile, for example, does not originate from today's Atlas mountain of Morocco. However, it is only two millennia later that the various sources of the Nile were eventually known.

Let's come back to Eratosthenes, who was not only the Director of the library of Alexandria, but also an astronomer, geographer, mathematician and philosopher. One of his most stunning works was the calculation of the Earth's circumference, which he estimated to be 39,375 km. This figure is of remarkable accuracy, because the actual value is a little more than 40,000 km.

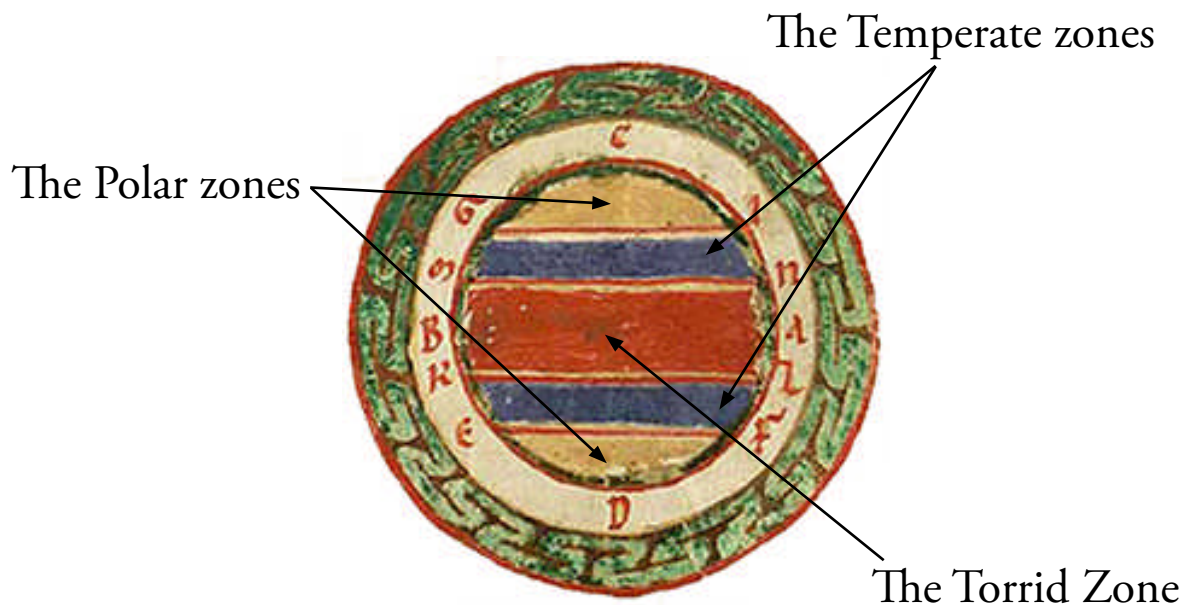
He drew a more precise map compared to those of his predecessors, because he used information that came from the Alexander the Great's military campaigns, which went right up to India.

Here is the reconstituted map, since the original one did not reach us. The origins of the Nile were well located this time.



Eratosthenes was the first to have added the parallels and meridians (longitudes and latitudes), which attests to his understanding that the Earth was spherical.

Actually, what is the shape of the Earth? The first to have concluded that it was a sphere were Pythagoras and Parmenides, around the 5th century BC. Thus, contrary to what is often believed, the ancient world already knew that the Earth was round and not flat. Parmenides divided the Earth into five climatic zones, which will be subsequently reproduced, like in this manuscript from the Middle Ages:



The Greeks therefore knew that the Earth was round, and as early as in the 3rd century BC, Aristarchus of Samos concluded that the Earth did not only rotate around itself, but that it also revolved around the Sun. He arrived at this conclusion almost 1700 years before Galileo.

4) Crates of Mallus

In about 220 BC, Crates of Mallus was born in Greece. He was a Stoic philosopher who was famous for having built the first globe. Here is a reproduction:



The word “Æcumene” means “inhabited earth, known world.”

“Antoeci” refers to those who live below the opposite latitude, therefore, in the Southern Hemisphere.

“Perioeci” refers to those who live in the same latitude but on the opposite meridian.

Crates of Mallus continued with Parmenides’ idea of climatic zones and assumed that the Torrid Zone was occupied by the ocean and that the inhabited Temperate Zones are on both sides of the ocean.

And Crates of Mallus arrived at the conclusion of the existence of inhabited land to the west of the ocean. We could say he discovered America, though simply by pure reasoning. Therefore, he cannot be the source of the Arab maps. However, the idea that inhabited lands existed beyond the ocean was then injected into the Greek world.



5) Claudius Ptolemy

Then came Claudius Ptolemy, whose influence was by far the most important of the geographers of Antiquity, because it continued until the Renaissance.

A Greek astronomer and astrologer of the 2nd century AD, he is considered as one of the fathers of geography. His book entitled “Geographia” will constantly be copied for over thousand years; fortunately, since we do not have the original anymore.

This copy was drawn in around the 15th century. It was made from hundreds of records contained in “Geographia”:



This map reveals many errors, as well as many curiosities. Firstly, we notice that the Indian Ocean, known by the name “Mare Indicum,” forms an inland sea, such as the Mediterranean. Strangely, it is bordered by land to the South, which could correspond to the Antarctic, which is believed to be unknown at the time.



What is even more strange is the fact that Ptolemy included land on the other side of the Pacific, called “Sinus Magnus” or “Great Gulf.” However, across the Pacific, there is America! He linked it to Asia, and even drew mountains to the West, as if he knew of the existence of the Andes Mountains. But he didn’t show how far to the East this land extended, which could have enabled us to determine which land was represented and to be able to conclude whether Ptolemy was the source for the Arab maps. It seems nevertheless unlikely since Al-Masudi and Ibn Hawqal drew a continent that is independent of Asia.



6) The Peutingerian Table

Julius Caesar's adopted son Augustus, became the first Roman Emperor in 27 BC. It was under his reign that the “cursus publicus” was created, the post service that ensured officials and administrative changes within the Empire. This was strategically important for the administration of the Roman provinces as well as the army: it relied on a huge network of pathways and stages that continued to grow with the power of Rome.

We know this today thanks to a special document entitled “The Peutingerian Table.”

Only a single copy remains, and it was discovered in 1494 in a German library, and then given to a humanist and lover of antiques by the name of Konrad Peutinger, from whom it derived its name “Tabula Peutingeriana” or the Peutingerian Table.

This copy seems to have been made in the 13th century by an anonymous monk. The original was made at least in the 4th century after Christ because the city of Constantinople, founded in 328, was

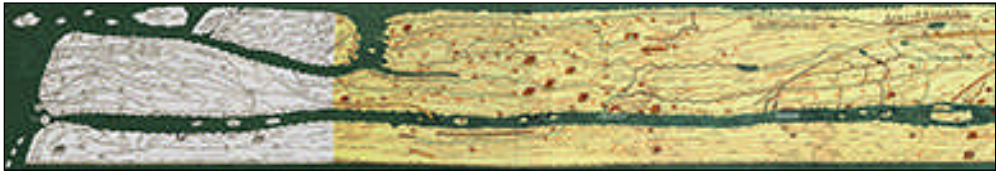
mentioned in it. The western part had disappeared but it was reconstituted thereafter.

The Peutingerian Table is extraordinarily large in size: it has a length of over 6.80 meters and consists of twelve scrolls!

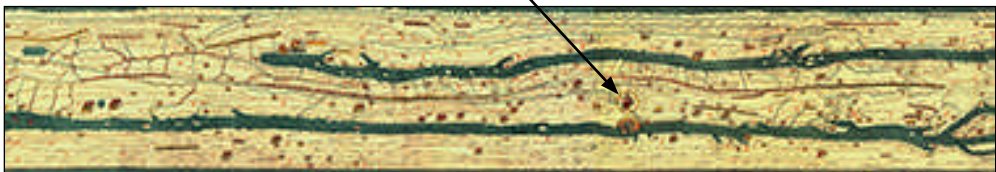
It is also remarkable because it represents 200,000 km of roads, with at least 555 cities and 3500 other place names. It thus covers the whole of the Roman Empire, the Middle East and extends to India. Who could achieve such a wonder across three continents?



Note: this map is too long to be contiguously presented in this book. As from the next page, you should therefore try to imagine the four bands, one after the other, from East to West.



Rome



Constantinople



Antioch



India is at the end of the map at the East, with the Ganges:



Further north, there is a nameplate on which, according to legend, Alexander the Great made write: “Alexander stopped here.” It marked the limit of the known world.

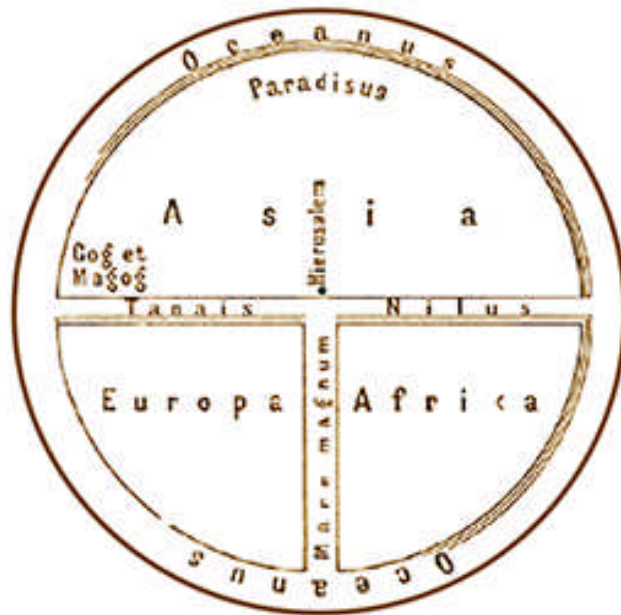
The Peutingerian Table also marks the end of our journey in ancient times. With the exception of Ptolemy, which is already remarkable and adds more to the mysteries of ancient maps, we have not found any trace of America. Perhaps, we may have more luck with the first Christian cartographers?

Chapter 3

The First Christians

1) Augustine of Hippo

Let's now have a look at the Christian maps of the world. They have some surprises for us. Let's start with Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD), one of the four Fathers of the Catholic Church. Here is how he represented the world:



Asia is the sum of Europe and Africa. The continents are separated by the Mediterranean, the Nile and the Don River, called “Tanais.” Jerusalem is at the center. Gog and Magog, the allies of evil, are in Asia. Paradise is located in the east, up on this reproduction.



America is still far away.

Saint Augustine recognized the principle of the roundness of the Earth, but he rejected the possibility of people living in antipodes.

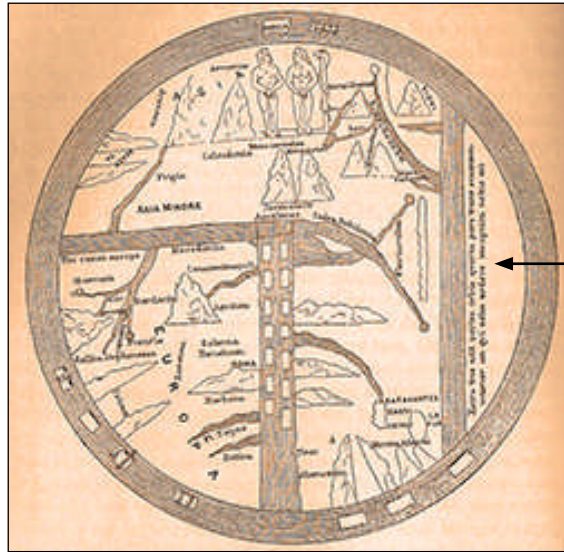
Obviously, he could not have been the source of the Arab cartographers.

2) Beatus

In 776, the Spanish monk Beatus wrote a book entitled, “Commentary on the Apocalypse.” The original has disappeared, but there are still some thirty editions and versions that were published during the four centuries that followed. This book presents a world map:



There are still three continents, i.e. Europe, Asia and Africa. But, surprisingly, Beatus added a fourth continent to the East.



The Latin text* says that “in addition to the three parts of the Earth, there is a fourth beyond the inner ocean, where the heat of the sun is unknown to us.”

* "Extra tres aut partes orbis quarta pars trans oceanum interior est qui solis ardore incognita nobis est."

It is not possible to know what that continent is — it could be America, Australia or even Antarctica—, and from where did this mysterious knowledge originate.

This book will have a deep impact on the Christian world for four centuries, but the borders of the fourth continent were too imprecise for us to think that Beatus might have been the source for Al-Masudi and Ibn Hawqal two centuries later.

It is perhaps the contrary that happened: indeed, according to most historians, Beatus was born in Andalusia, then under the domination of the Arabs. Did he hear about this fourth continent beyond the ocean from them? What other source could he have as Christians at that time barely started to talk about islands in the Atlantic Ocean but not of another continent? And they would continue to reproduce the world with only three continents for centuries.

Chapter 4

China

China too had its cartographers. Let's see if there are traces of America on this side of the world ... After all, there is just an ocean to cross.

1) The Ming map

It is under the Ming dynasty, from 1368 to 1644, that this map was designed, without any precision as to the exact year:

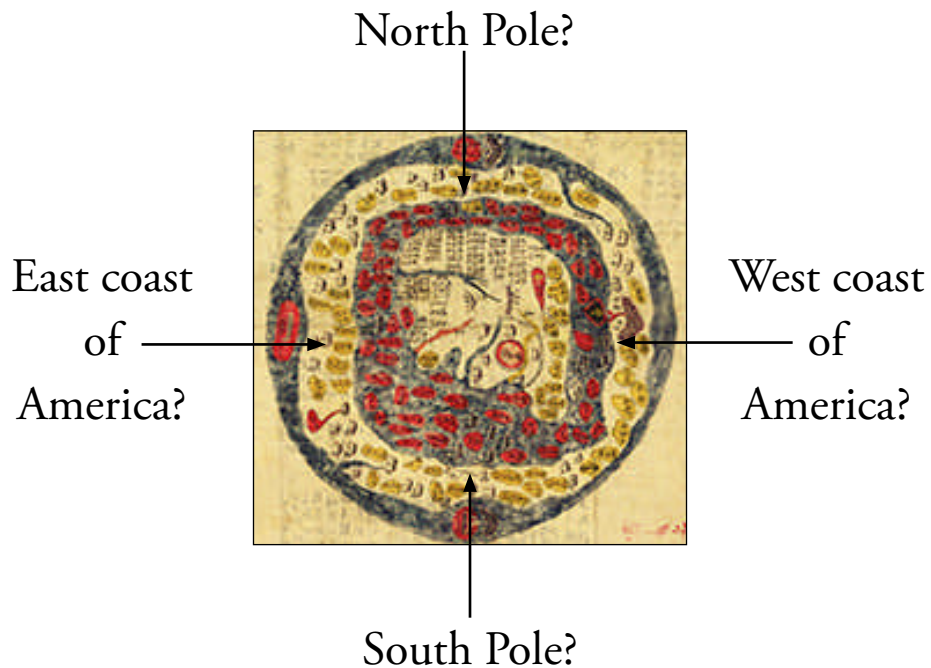


The left side represents China, while the one on the right represents the world.

It closely resembles the European medieval maps we know. Even the Red Sea is painted red. Could this map be a copy of a European map?



However, what differentiates them is the strip of land around the world on the Chinese map. What is it? The East and West coasts of America and the North and South Poles?



2) The Zheng He map

Legendary Chinese admiral, Zheng commanded seven maritime expeditions from 1405 to 1433 to East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Discovered in 2005, this map dates to 1763 but it would be a reproduction of an old map of 1418 that belonged to Zheng He:



All continents are represented, including America, Australia and the South Pole. The accuracy is impressive, but this map is considered a fake.

Even if the Chinese knew America well before Columbus —we will show it later—, the slightly earlier or later Chinese maps that we studied do not seem compatible with this supposed map of Zheng He. So it probably is a fake, or at least not a map of 1418.



The Da Ming Hun Yi Tu map
1389



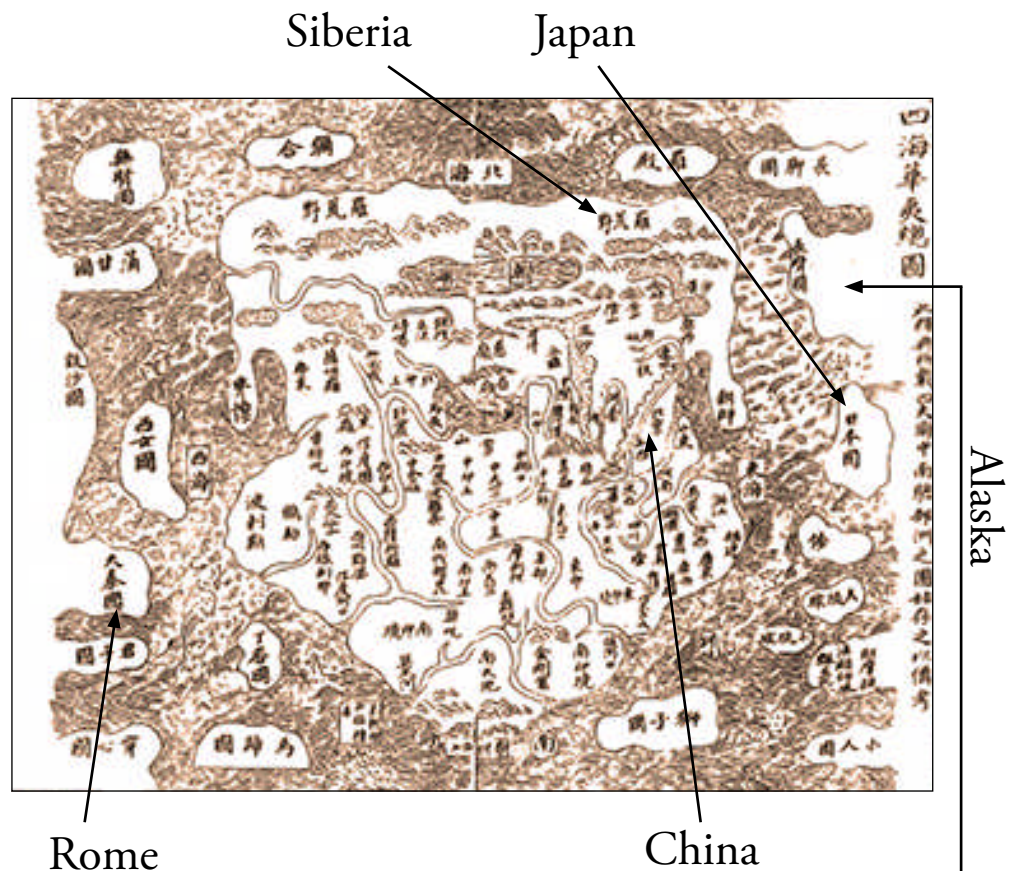
Map of the World
1470



The Sancai Tuhui map
1607

3) The Sihai Huayi Zongtu map

This Chinese map dated 1532 is worth studying carefully:



Opposite Asia, on the other side of the ocean, there is a land. Obviously, it looks like Alaska and the west of the American continent.

But it is only in the 18th century, two and a half centuries later, that the Europeans discovered Alaska. For example, it is still unknown on the 1670 map of the Dutch cartographer Frederik de Wit:



Therefore, the Chinese knew this part of the American continent centuries before the Europeans.

Chapter 5

Three More Amazing Maps

1) The Viking map of Vinland

This was offered to Yale University in the United States by a former student more than fifty years ago. Meant to reproduce a thirteenth century original, it is considered the first known depiction of the coast of North America on a map. The Vikings had indeed arrived in the New World more than two hundred years before Columbus.



Hudson Bay



Gulf of Saint
Lawrence

The legend at the top left says: “By God's will, after a long voyage from the island of Greenland to the south toward the most distant remaining parts of the western ocean sea, sailing southward amidst the ice, the companions Bjarni and Leif Eriksson discovered a new land, extremely fertile and even having vines [...] which island they named Vinland.”

There are other surprises on this map, mainly an island in the west of the Atlantic almost as large as England named as “Branziliæ.” Obviously, it makes us think of Brazil, although this is supposed to be impossible.



Studies consider that this map is a fake. However, archeology has confirmed that the Vikings had established a colony on the coast of what is now Canada, about 500 years before Columbus. So why would they not have drawn a map, whether this one or another, anyway? And why wouldn't they gradually descend further south on the continent?

2) The map of Lucas Brandis

In any case, the Nordic sagas will inspire the Medieval West, at least until the 15th century and this map of Lucas Brandis, a German typographer and editor.

Made in 1475 and presented in the monumental history of the world entitled, “*Rudimentum Novitiorum*,” it was the first printed world map — Gutenberg invented the printing press some twenty years prior to that time.



This Lucas Brandis map held a major surprise for us: indeed, a little piece of America is drawn above, since it represented the Vinland therein. This was achieved some seventeen years before Christopher Columbus' trip!



3) Marco Polo

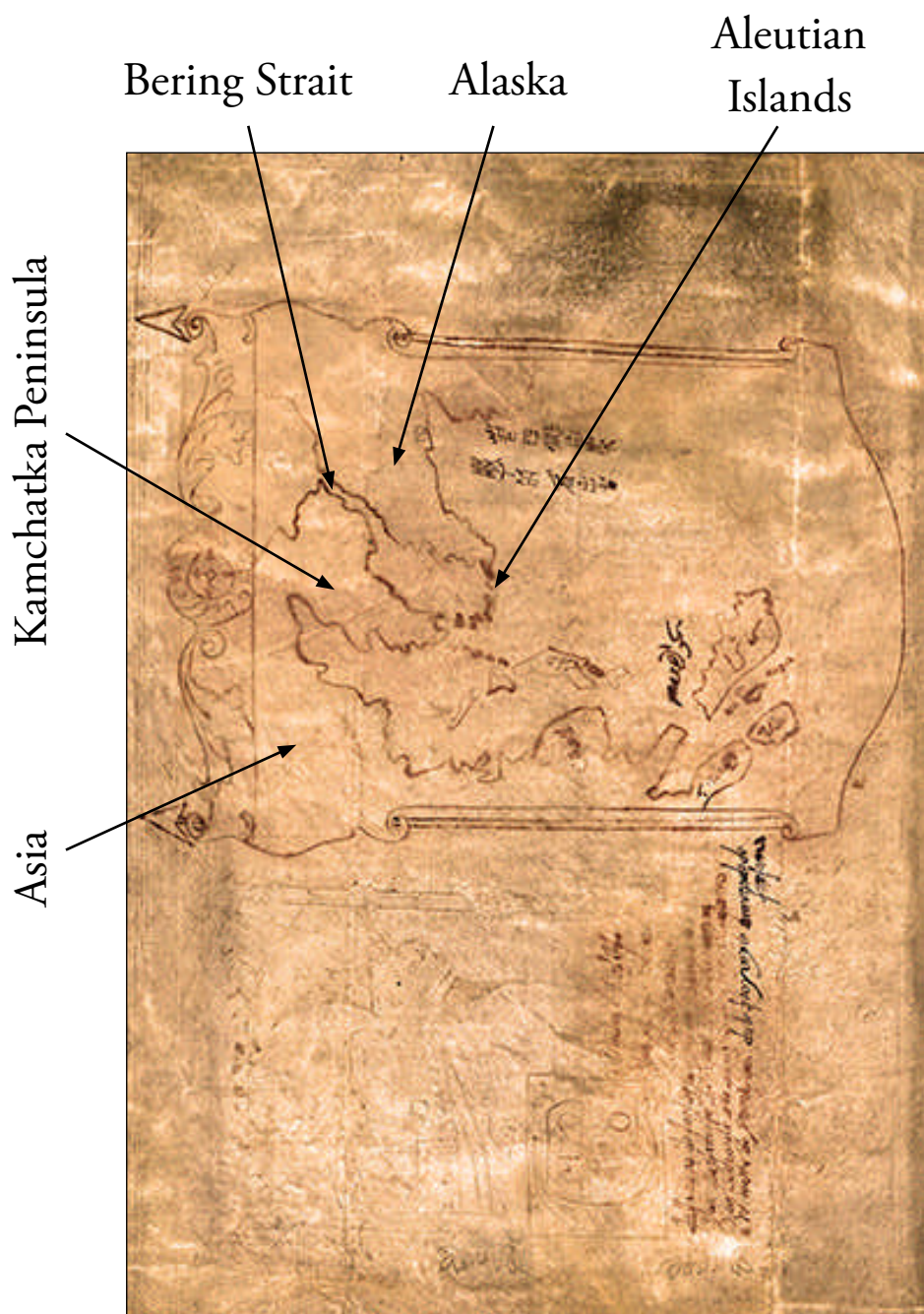
In 1935, Marcian Rossi, a retired merchant, offered a map to the Library of Congress of the United States, which he said came from an ancestor friend of Marco Polo. It would have belonged to Marco Polo himself and therefore dates back to the 13th century.

The FBI conducted analyses with ultraviolet rays from 1943 on and discovered that there are three levels of ink which means that three drawings were superimposed.

We recognize Asia on the left, Alaska and the coast of North America to the right. Also represented are the Aleutian Islands, which form a semi-circle of 1900 km (1200 mi).

The names of the places are written in Arabic. There are also Chinese characters on two columns and a Venetian text.

So, even if this map did not belong to Marco Polo and he did not go to America, it is, nevertheless, further evidence that the continent was known for centuries before 1492.



Chapter 6

The Pre-Columbian Portolans

It was also well before the arrival of Christopher Columbus that Portolans charts began to appear. These were marine charts for navigation. They locate ports, the dangers that surround them, currents, winds, etc. The outlines of the coasts are represented by names.

What is surprising is the accuracy with which these maps were drawn at that time.

Major maritime kingdoms like Spain and Portugal considered Portolans charts as state secrets. It is all the more understandable that at the west of the Atlantic some supposed islands that had not yet been discovered according to official history began to appear on maps.

As these anomalies seriously contradict the dogma of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus,

modern day historians explain that these islands were 'imagined', 'fantasized', 'phantom islands' and other similar qualifiers. Thereby, they ignore the maps drawn by the monk Beatus (8th century onwards) and, of course, the Arab maps, that we presented in the first chapter. They will probably retort that Occident had no knowledge of Arab maps of the 10th century. It is possible, but this would mean forgetting the long presence of the Crusaders and Knights of the Temple across the Mediterranean, as well as all exchanges that led to disseminate Arab science in Europe, including algebra with... Arabic numerals, not to mention the presence of Muslims in Spain up to the 15th century.

It will also mean forgetting the trips across the Atlantic, such as the one made by the Irish monk Saint Brendan of Clonfert, at about 544-545 AD. Back in Ireland, he claimed to have discovered an island, which he compared to paradise. Today it is understood that he reached the Azores, the Caribbean or even Cuba.

The “Brendan island” or “Saint Brendan” then appeared regularly on maps until the one drawn in 1570 by Abraham Ortelius, a geographer and cartographer from Antwerp.

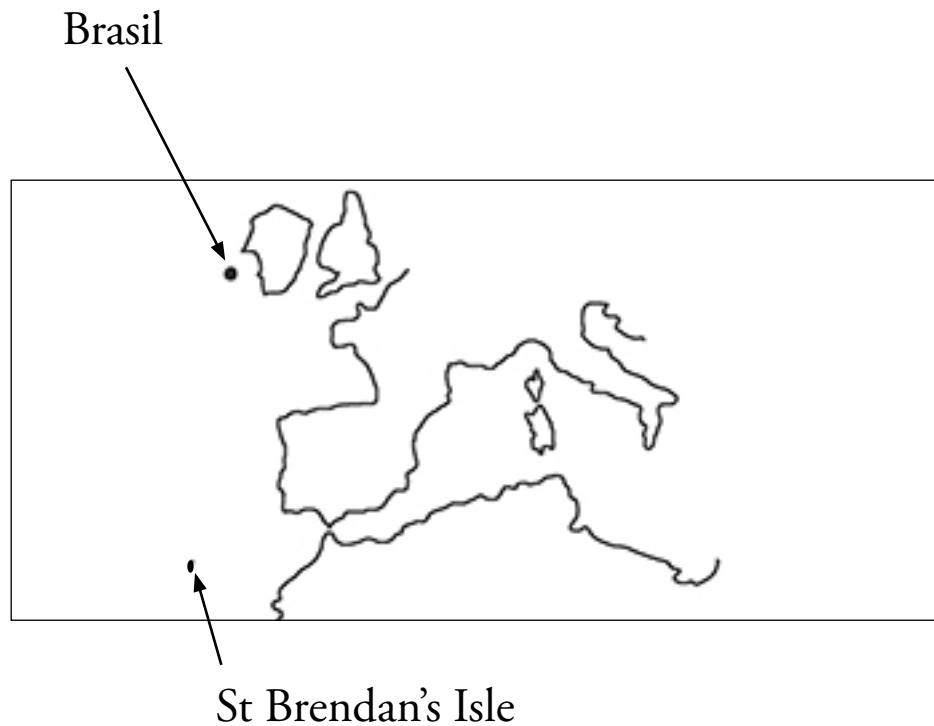
I. Brazil

1) Angelino Dulcert

One of the oldest Portolans charts kept was designed by the Spanish cartographer Angelino Dulcert in 1339.

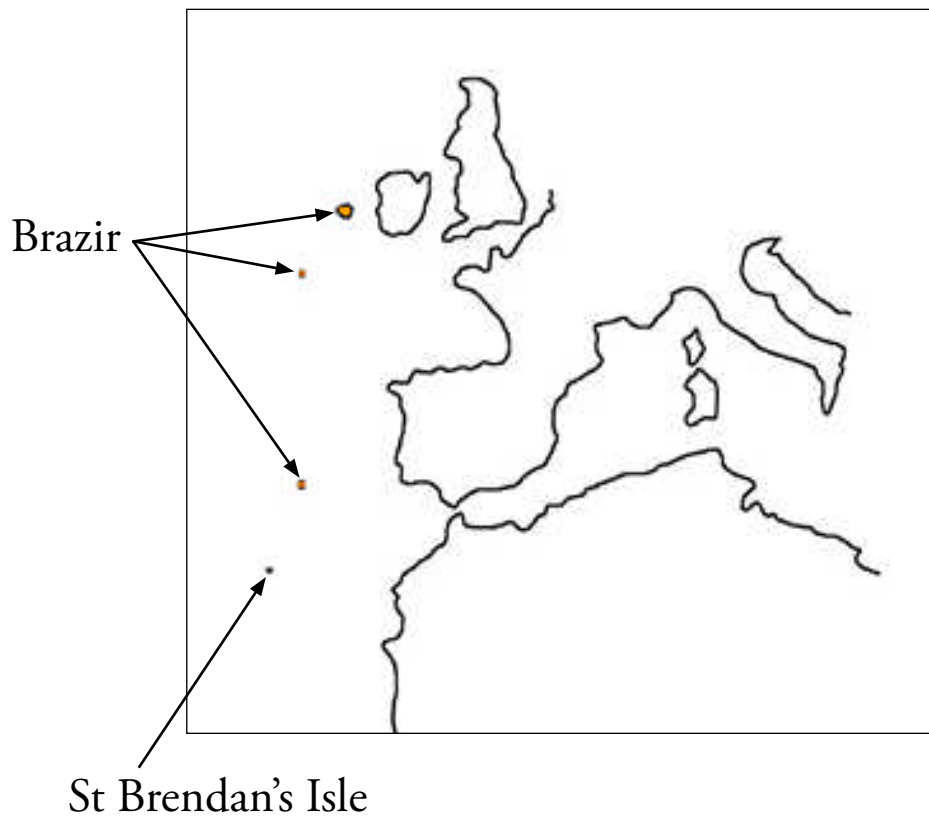
The outlines are fairly precise and latitudes and longitudes are surprisingly accurate for the time. But even more surprising, he mentioned an island called “Brasil.” This is obviously impossible, since this part of the world had only been officially discovered a century and a half later!

At the southern part of the Atlantic, he added the St Brendan’s Isle.



2) Pizzigani Brothers

Some thirty years later, in 1367, the island of “Brazir” or Brazil appeared on the map of the brothers Domenico and Francisco Pizzigani, Venetian cartographers. It was even mentioned in three different areas:

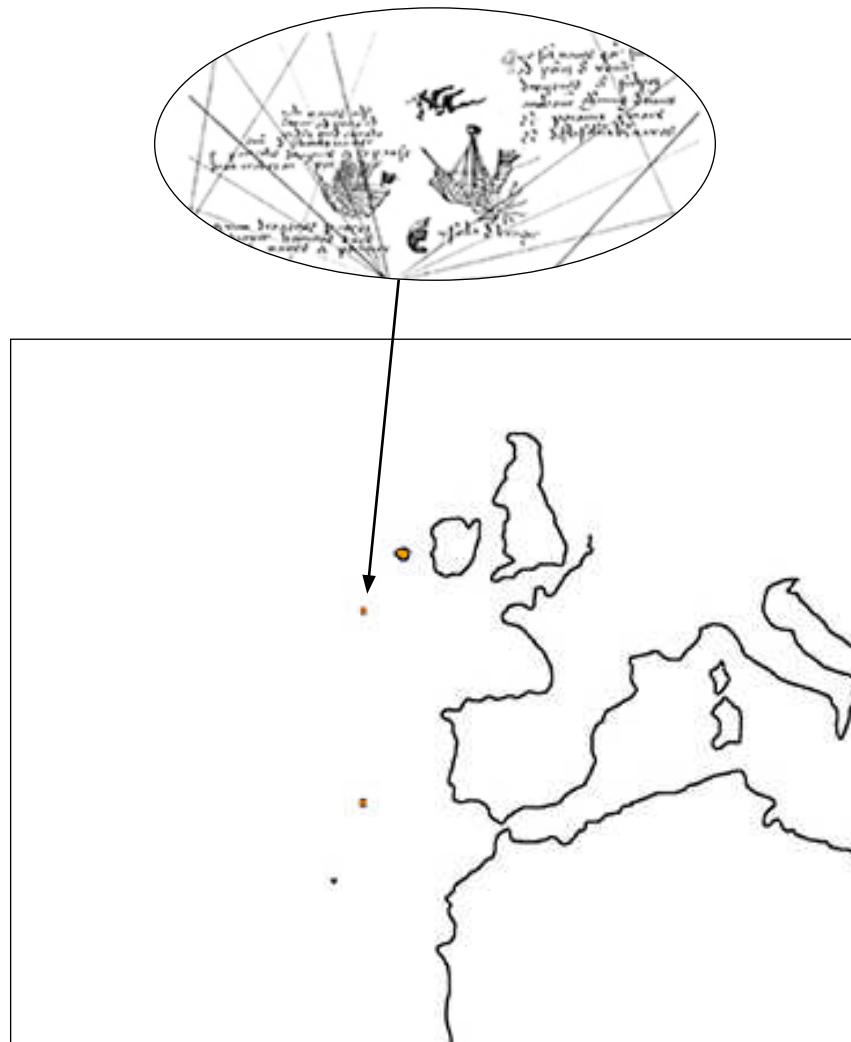


This map gives the impression that the Pizzigani Brothers took testimonies from sailors who located Brazil in different locations, but since they could not imagine that it was a continent, they set the islands to the corresponding locations.

This of course would mean that the crossing of the Atlantic took place at least 125 years before Columbus.

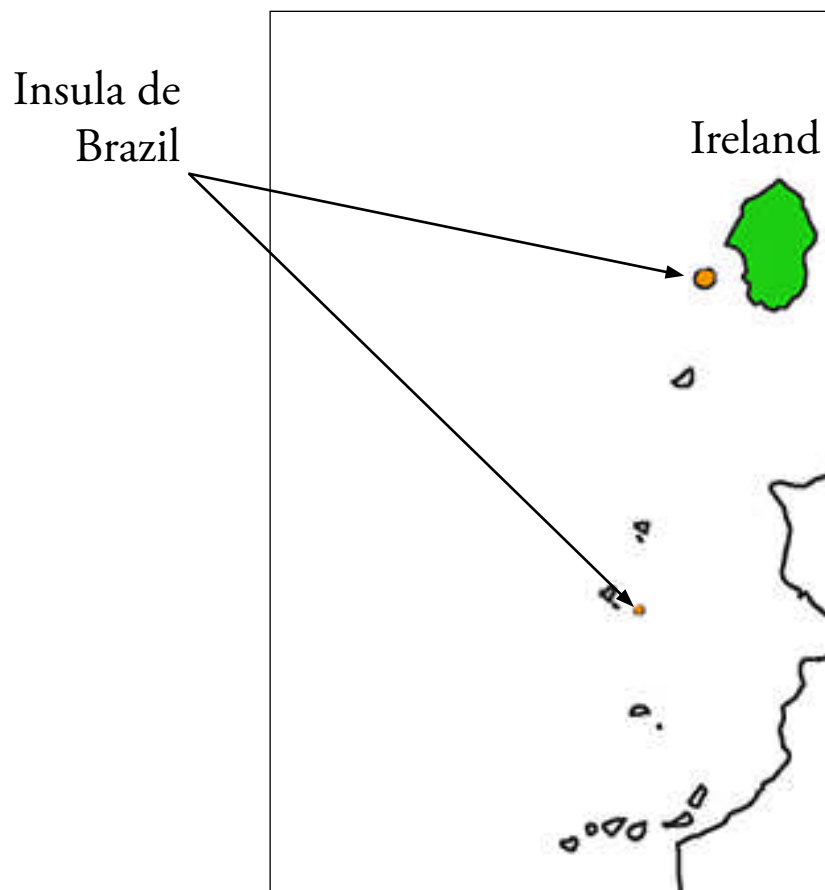
They even added the St Brendan's Isle.

On this part of the map, around the “Brazir Insula,” there were narrated stories of dragons attacking men. Clearly, some people didn’t want everyone to visit that part of the Atlantic.



3) Catalan Atlas

Eight years later, in 1375, on the gorgeous “Catalan Atlas” of Abraham Cresques, a cartographer from the School of Majorca, the island of Brazil or “Insula de Brazil” appeared again in the Atlantic Ocean, but on two spots:



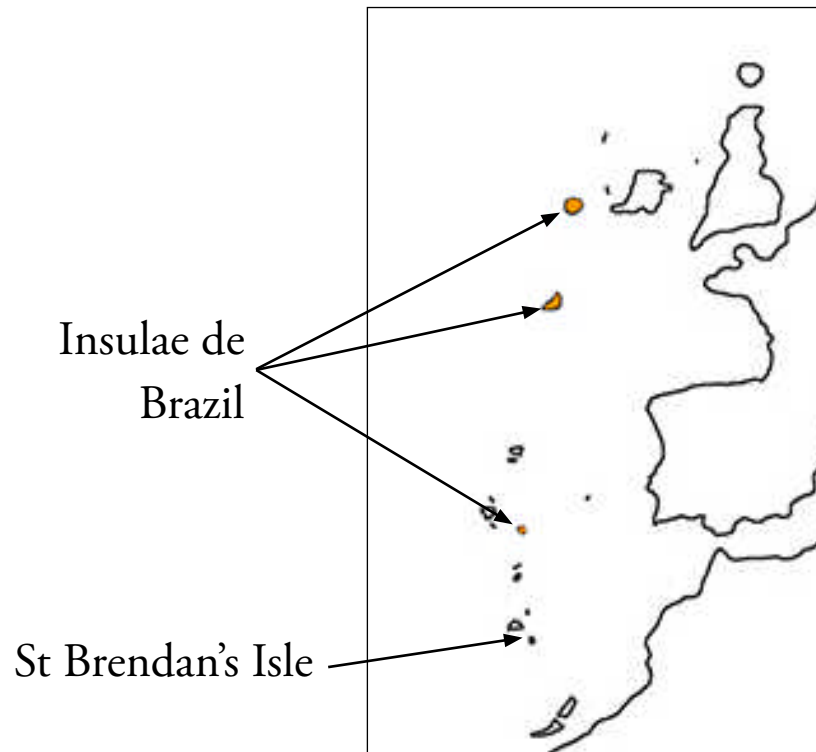
4) Guillem Soler

About him, we do not know much, except that he was a Christian and cartographer from the School of Majorca, as were Angelino Dulcert and Abraham Cresques. He designed this Portolan chart in 1380:



Our attention is drawn to the islands he designed in the Atlantic Ocean.

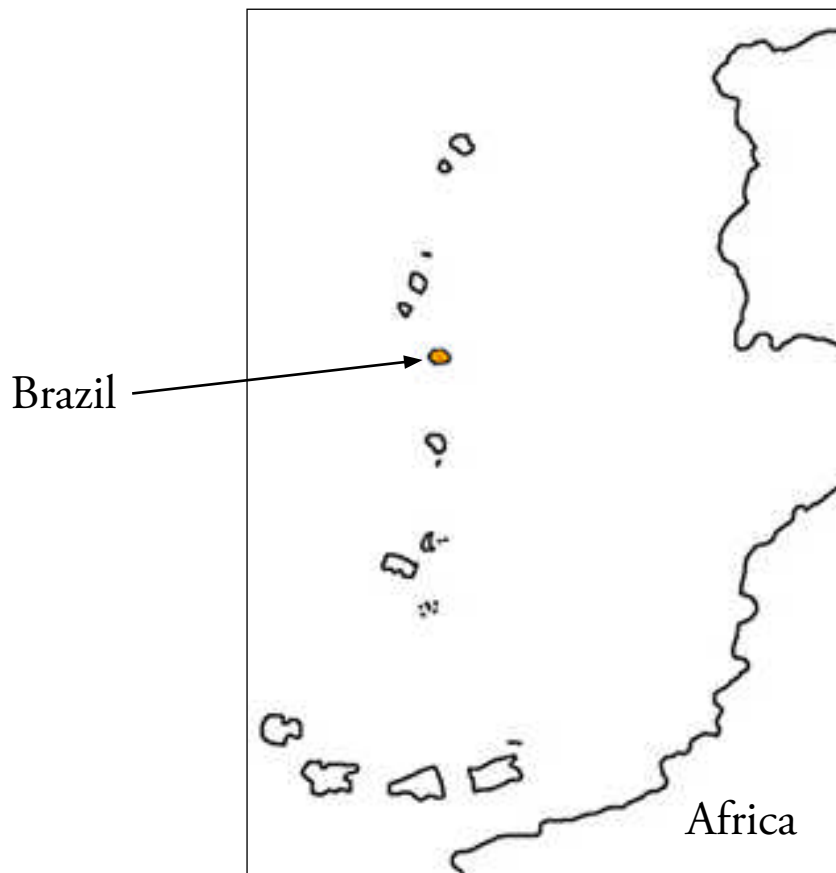
We notice that the words “Insulae de Brazil” or “Brazilian Island” appeared in three places on the map, as on the Pizzigani brothers map of 1367:



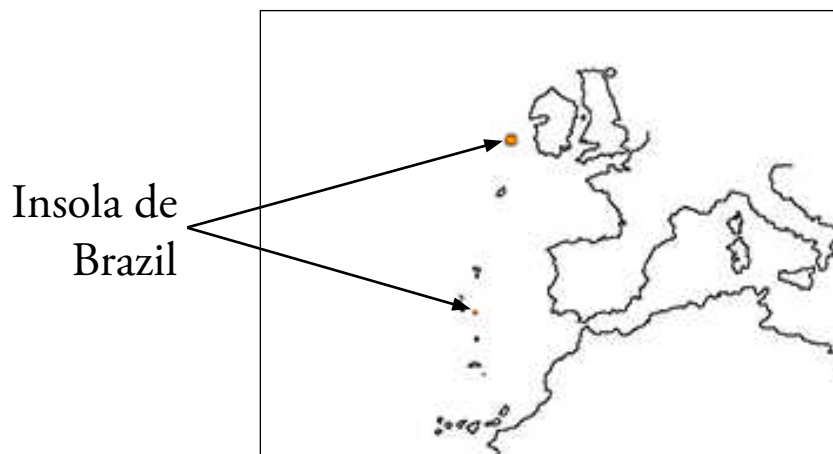
He also made reference to the island of Saint Brendan, but this is not visible, because the map seems to have been damaged in that portion (we have therefore inserted it where it appeared).

5) Other Appearances of Brazil

It should be noted that, well before Christopher Columbus' expedition, Brazil appeared on many other maps and not just the ones drawn by the Majorcan school cartographers. For example, on the Corbitis Atlas, that was drafted in Venice at about 1390, i.e. a century earlier:



The decades passed by and Brazil continued to appear on maps of the Majorcan school, such as in the map of Mecia de Viladestes, in the year 1413. He also drew the Brazilian Island twice, i.e. off the coast of Ireland and Southwards in the Atlantic:

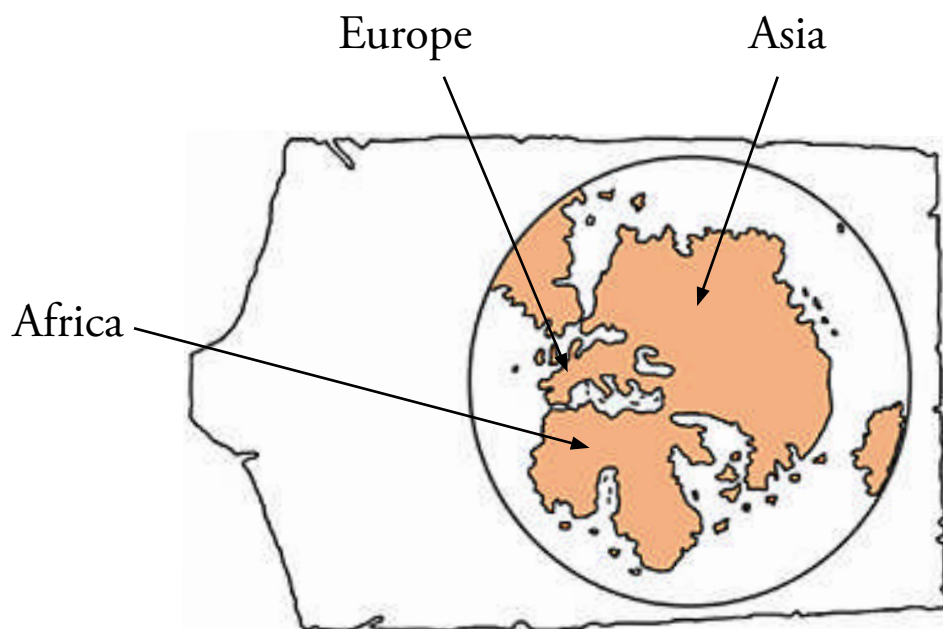


While waiting for the experts to acknowledge the authenticity of this map, let us add the Viking's map of the 13th century, where the island of "Branziliæ" is present, as we have shown in the previous chapter.

If readers desire to go further on this matter, they can search for Brazil in all the pre-Columbian Portolans. This will be a real scavenger hunt.

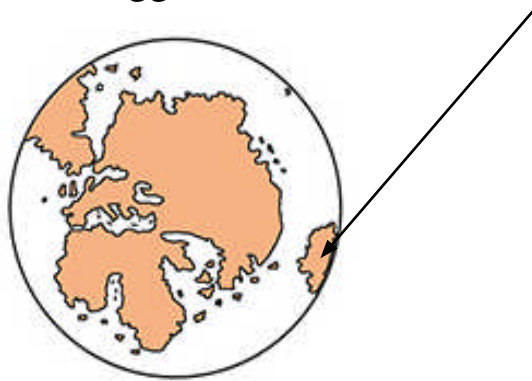
II. Africa and Australia

Albertinus de Virga, a Venetian cartographer, drew a map on a parchment of 70 by 44 cm (28x17 in), between 1411 and 1415. The world appears as a marked circle:

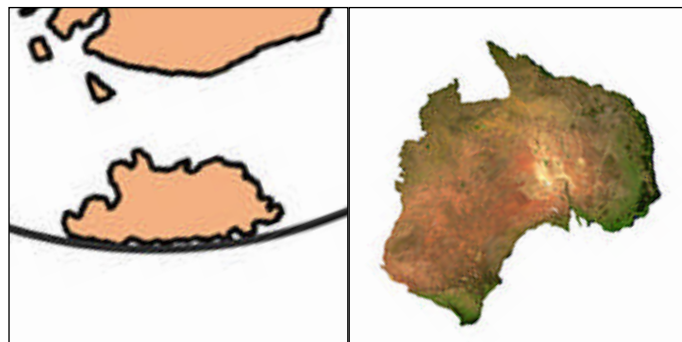


This map raises questions. Firstly, the outline of Africa is pretty well-defined, especially the southern half of the continent, yet unknown to Europeans at the time. Indeed, it would be another seventy years before Bartholomew Diaz rounded the Cape of

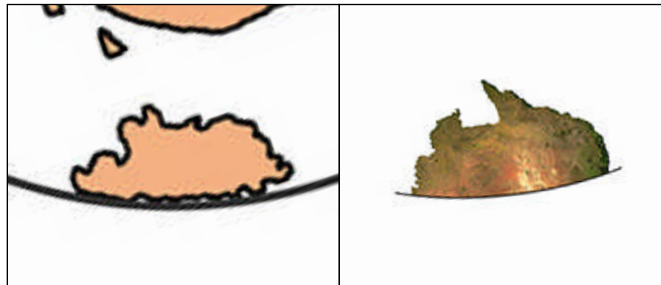
Good Hope for the first time and reached the east coast of Africa. Therefore, if we are to stick to the official chronology of events, it should have been impossible to precisely draw Africa at that time. Furthermore, Albertin de Virga added a large island at the base of Asia, to the East of his map. It obviously makes us suggest that this was Australia.



Let's rotate it and add a satellite image so as to compare:



There is little doubt that it was Australia that was drawn. It is even more convincing if we add the bowing of the Earth on the satellite picture, as on the map of Albertin de Virga:



Though it was supposedly discovered by the Europeans only some ... two centuries later by the Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon in 1606.

Several authors however suggested that the Portuguese were the first Europeans to land in Australia, as early as 1520. It even appeared on the Dieppe maps in the year 1540, i.e. at least sixty years before the discovery of 1606.

Meanwhile, it was more than a century before the supposed arrival of Portuguese in 1520, that Albertin de Virga drew Australia on his map. So, by what inexplicable miracle did he know the existence and the shape of Australia as early as 1415?

III. The West Indies

Just as with the case of Brazil, the name “Antilla”² appeared on many Pre-Columbian portolans. Hence, Jerald Fritzinger’s book entitled “Trans-Oceanic Contact”³ inventories about twenty or so:

Maps drawn before 1492 that bear the name “Antilla”	
Zuane Pizzigano	1424
Battista Beccario	1435
Andrea Bianco	1436
Bartolomeo Pareto	1455
Map of Weimar	Around 1460
Grazioso Benincasa	1463
Petrus Roselli	1463
Petrus Roselli	1466
Petrus Roselli	1468
Grazioso Benincasa	1470
Paolo Toscanelli	1474
Cristoforo Soligo	Around 1475
Andrea Benincasa	1476
Albino de Canepa	1480
Grazioso Benincasa	1482
Jacme Bertran	1482
An anonymous Marjorcan map	1487
Albino de Canepa	1489
Martin Behaim / “Erdapfel”	1491-1493

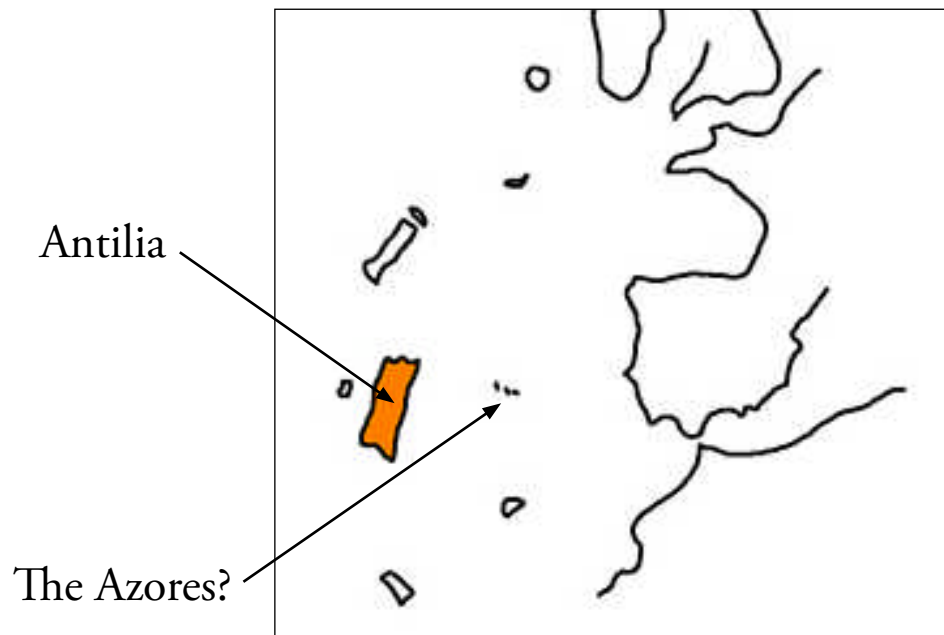
2. The name of the West Indies in languages coming from Latin.

3. “Pre-Columbian Trans-Oceanic Contact,” Jerald Fritzinger, Lulu.com, March 2016.

According to official historians, the name “Antilla” does not imply our current West Indies, but rather the “front Islands” or “in front of the known world.” Despite their interpretation, this proves that, during the Middle Ages, the presence of islands in the Atlantic and even far beyond the Azores was already known. At this stage, it does not matter if the Islands denoted as “Antilla” represented the West Indies, Cuba or even Brazil: what is important to note is that the Arabs had drawn the American continent for over four centuries before the Europeans ever did, so it was already known.

Let’s present some of these Portolans wherein the name “Antilia” appears.

The oldest of them was drawn in 1424 by Zuane Pizzigano, a Venetian cartographer of the 15th century:



What is strange is that he represented what looks like the Azores, which however will be discovered by the Portuguese only a few years later. Zuane Pizzigano drew islands to the west in the Atlantic, among which Antilia.

Antilia will continue to appear on other maps, like here on that one of Bartolomeo Pareto in 1455:

Antillia



Then it appeared on Benincasa's map in 1476. He even added the island of "Bracil":



Antilio

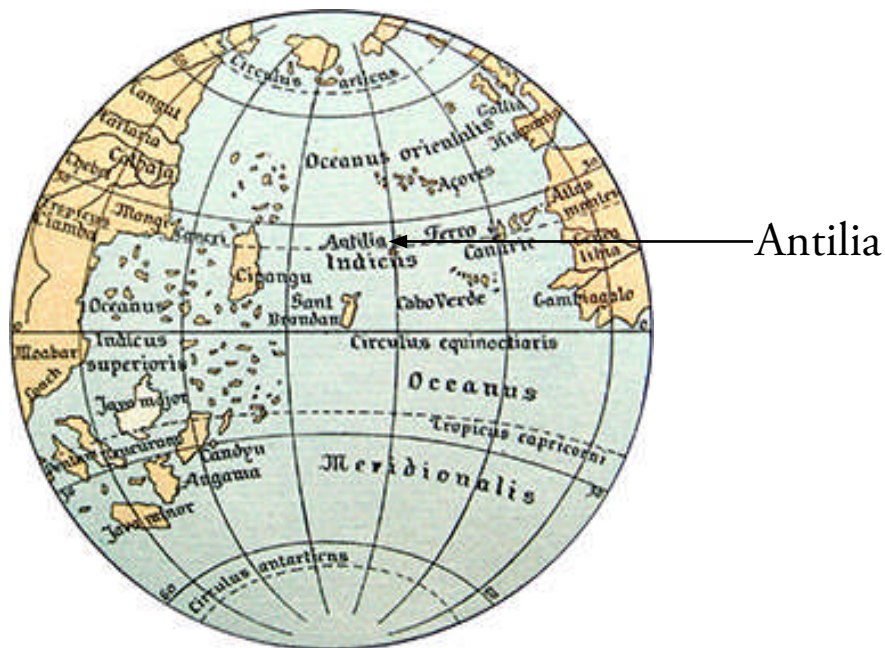
I. de Bracil

Martin Behaim is a German navigator born in Nuremberg in 1459. He built a terrestrial globe between 1491 and 1493, measuring fifty centimeters in diameter. He called it “Erdapfel.” Here is how it looked:



The reproduction clearly shows that Martin Behaim did not know the discovery of the New World, as it did not appear. On the left, there is Asia, on the right, Europe and Africa.

Again, to the West of Africa, almost at the center of the ocean, an island called “Antilia” appears. Saint Brendan’s Isle was located further south, to the East of Japan, called “Cipangu.”



Then came 1492 and Christopher Columbus. It is hard to believe that he never heard of the islands of Antilla, Brazil and Saint Brendan before his trip, as they appear on Western maps for over a century and a half, without speaking of the Arab maps.

Chapter 7

After the Discovery of the New World

Finally, America is officially discovered. Yet anomalies continued, as we will see.

1) Piri Reis

Let's start with probably the most well-known map today, which is that of the Turkish Admiral Piri Reis. It was drawn in 1513, but was found in Istanbul only in the year 1929.



This map became famous because many people saw and continue to see information that was not supposed to be known at the time. According to them, it would even be the evidence of the existence of highly advanced ancient civilizations or extraterrestrial visits. For example, the map would describe a part of Antarctica. How can they make such a conclusion? Indeed, South America continues eastward, but it is not enough to say that this is Antarctica.



In addition, if the information came from a superior civilization, the distance of almost a thousand miles between the two continents would necessarily be visible:



In comparing the Piri Reis map with other contemporary or later ones, like that of Gerardus Mercator from the year 1596, we notice the same type of error:



It is the same for North and Central America, whose representation by Piri Reis was so incorrect that we cannot imagine that the source came from ancient masters; neither is this map the image of the Earth as seen from the sky, as resources claim:

(the outline
on this
map was
blackened
by us)



But this map does present a mystery. It is the Spanish writer and journalist Javier Sierra who revealed it in his book “La Ruta Prohibida.” In 2002, he received special permission from the Turkish government to view the Piri Reis map.

The specialist accompanying him translated the inscriptions in old Turkish. One text says that the West Indies were discovered in the year 890 of the Arab calendar by a Genoese named Columbus.

But in the Arab calendar, 890 corresponds to 1485, seven years **BEFORE** the official voyage of Christopher Columbus. And Piri Reis added that he received this information from a Spanish prisoner who accompanied Christopher Columbus in his first three trips.

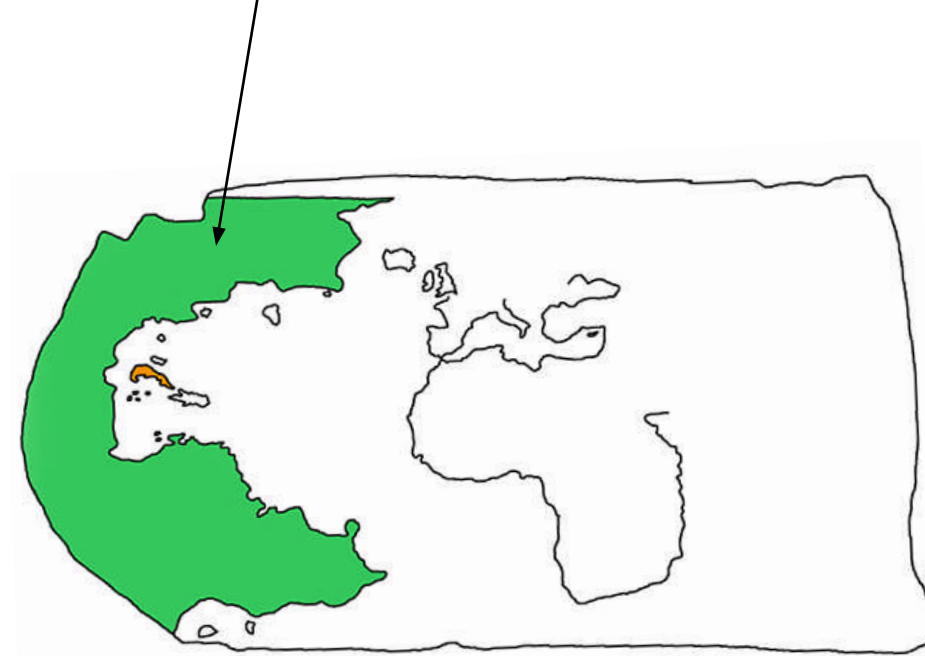
Perhaps this is a mistake in the date ... It is impossible to know. Moreover, Piri Reis explained that he used about twenty maps to draw his own, some of which dated far back into the Antiquity. They have all since disappeared. But he, himself, designed many maps of the Mediterranean that he knew perfectly. So, he does not need a map dating from Antiquity in order to draw it.

Did one of them already represent the coast of America? Unfortunately, we will probably never know.

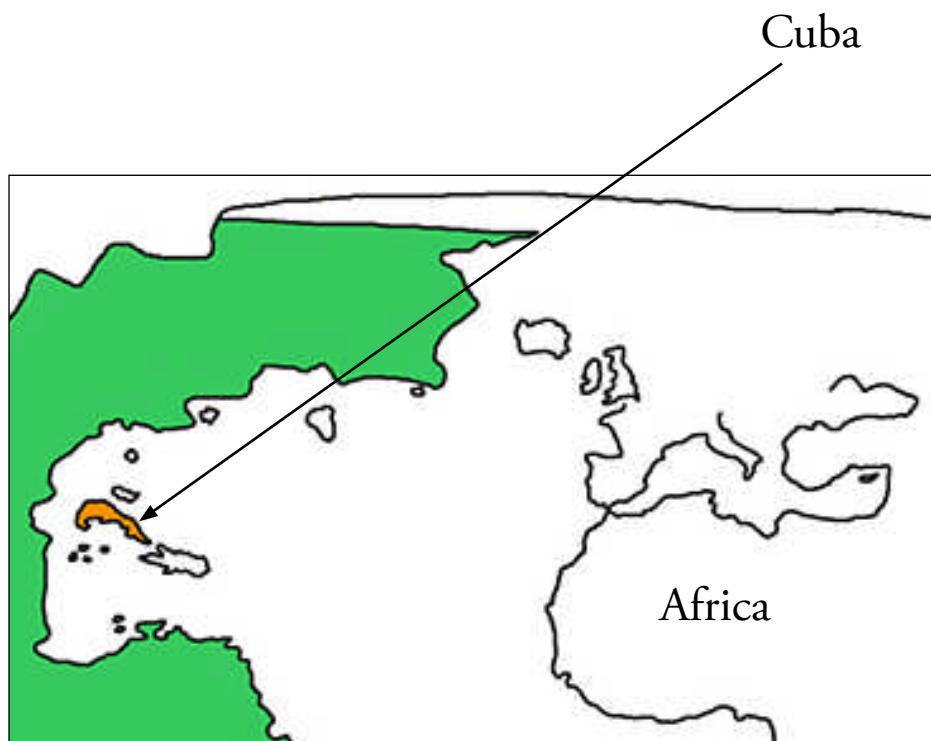
2) Juan de la Cosa

Spanish explorer and cartographer, Juan de la Cosa participated in the discovery of the New World alongside Christopher Columbus, as he was the owner of the *Santa María*, the main ship of the first expedition in 1492. So he drew this map in 1500 as an eyewitness.

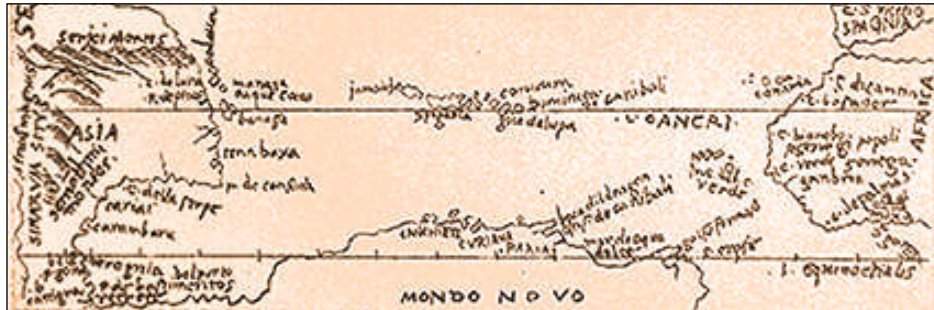
Historians believe nowadays that this is the first map with America (in green). It is huge.



What is strange is that Juan de la Cosa seems to represent Cuba as an island, whereas it was seen by Columbus as part of the continent. In addition, the first full tour of Cuba will be made only in 1508, eight years later.



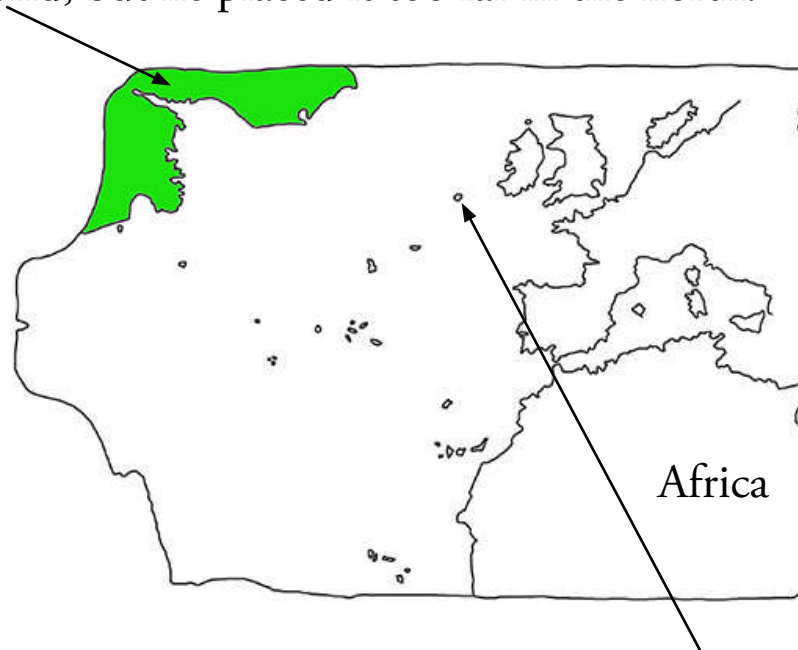
And Bartolomeo Columbus, a brother of Christopher Columbus, commissioned the design of a map in 1506 on which Cuba was absent:



Only South America is the New World, the northern part belongs to Asia. This makes sense, since Christopher Columbus thought he had arrived in India and did not know that he was in America.

3) Pedro Reinel

A Portuguese cartographer born in 1462, Pedro Reinel produced an amazing map in 1504. He certainly knew about the discovery of the New World, but he placed it too far in the north:



However, he added the island of “Brasil,” off Ireland. Thus, twelve years after the first voyage of Christopher Columbus, the link was still not established between South America and this mysterious island of Brazil that has been appearing on the maps for almost two centuries.

Eight years later, in 1512, Hieronymus Marini, an Italian architect and military engineer, had understood: he designed what is believed to be the first map with the word “Brasil,” though this is not true, as we showed it.



4) **Martin Waldseemüller**

In 1507 he published a world map, which is amazing for several reasons.

First for its size: 2.30 meters by 1.3 meter (2.1x1.2 y.); it required twelve sheets.

It is also exceptional due to the quality of the spherical representation of the Earth.





Then it was on the map of Martin Waldseemüller that appeared for the first time the name of “America.” It is a tribute to the navigator Amerigo Vespucci, who sailed far enough south to conclude that this continent was not Asia.



However, something obvious to us, but impossible in 1507 is to represent the new continent as separated from Asia. Indeed, it took another twelve years before Magellan bypasses the southern headland to reach the Pacific and until 1741, more than two centuries later, for Vitus Bering to discover the strait that bears his name, proving that the American and Asian continents are separated.

Furthermore, we saw previously the map commissioned by Bartolomeo Columbus in 1506, the year just before Martin Waldseemüller delivered his own: only South America is called "New World," the northern part of the continent being Asia.



And Bartolomeo Columbus accompanied his brother in "America," whereas Martin Waldseemüller never went there!

Moreover, about sixty years later, in 1565, Paolo Forlani continued to link Asia and North America:



However, Martin Waldseemüller separated the two continents. How could he know this?

North America designated by the term “Terra
ulteri incognita” meaning “faraway unknown land”
is small, but what is astonishing is that he drew
mountains on the western edge of the continent, as
if he knew the Rocky Mountains. The coincidence
seems impossible.



But, in fact, new mysteries appear with this map. The first is that India does not look like its present form. Instead, there is an island called “Taprobana Insula,” which some see as Ceylon. It is obviously much too large, and, moreover, it is surrounded by numerous islands that either never existed or no longer exist.

However, South India, in the time of the ancient Dravida mentioned in the holy book of the Vedas, was an island, which would correspond to the map. But it was thousands of years ago!

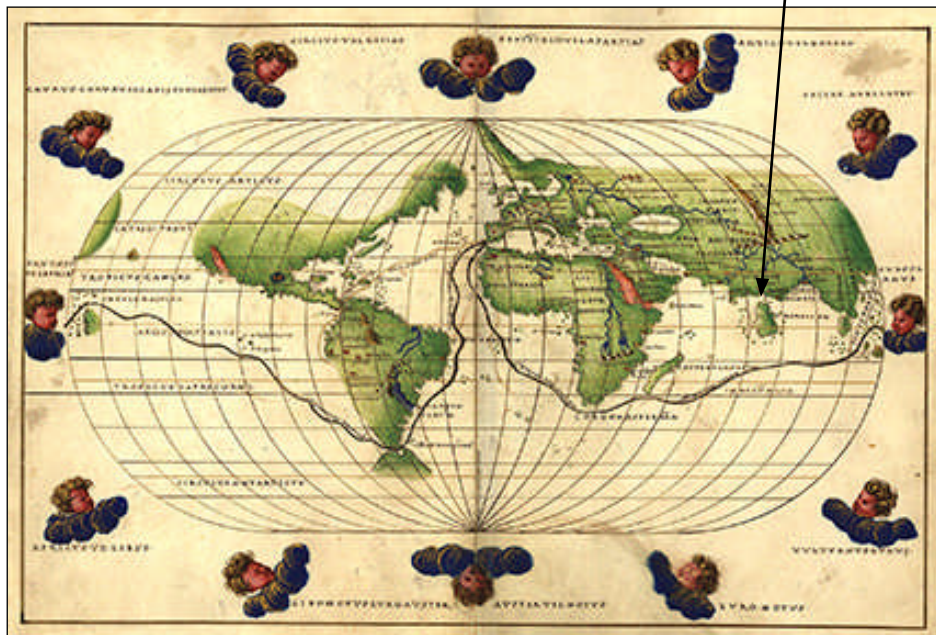


It is hard to believe that Martin Waldseemüller and all cartographers who preceded him since Ptolemy, so, during almost the last 1500 years, have drawn India as it does not exist since thousands of years. All the more as India had been known for more than thousand years and Vasco da Gama arrived by sea eight years before, without speaking of Alexander the Great who conquered a part of India in the 4th century BC.

Then, as soon as 1502, the Cantino planisphere perfectly represented India:



Yet forty years later, in 1544, Battista Agnese reproduced, quite well, the world, including America, but not India, although India was known and had been explored for a long time. How is it possible?



So, let's summarize: Martin Waldseemüller drew America in 1507, which is supposed not to have been explored or even circumvented by anyone, and India the way it was probably thousands of years ago.

Both were impossible in his days. So either the history of discoveries is totally false, which is suggested anyway on the Arab maps we have seen, or Martin Waldseemüller had, in his possession, a map coming from the depths of time. Obviously, the latter is impossible because it would mean that it is the official history of mankind which is false.



However, we have not finished with the mysteries of this map. Let's continue the journey. There appears the Bay of Bengal, called “Sinus gangeticus” into which empties the Ganges. On the other side of the Bay of Bengal begins Southeast Asia with the Malay Peninsula, called “Aurea Chersones.”

Here is the South China Sea,
with the Indochinese peninsula.

This river would be the Mekong,
which is surprisingly well designed.



To the east, we reach the Sinus Magnus, which corresponds to the Pacific Ocean.



However, on the other side, Martin Waldseemüller further widened Asia as he added new land. But what is there in the east of the Pacific Ocean? Of course, America! He had represented America twice on his map.

Equally surprising, he gave America, the “true” one, a perspective effect, as if it were seen from the sky from the Northern Hemisphere.



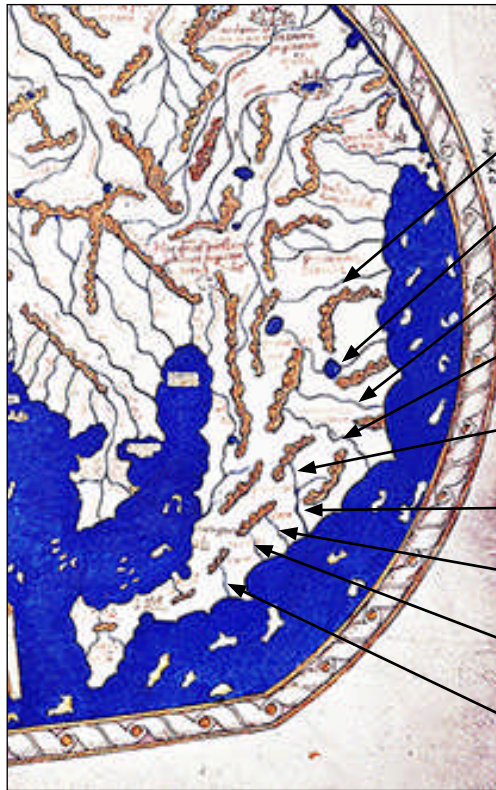
How could Martin Waldseemüller know the shape of South America? By which map was he inspired?

Maybe by that of Heinrich Hammer, known as “Henricus Martellus Germanus,” dating from 1490-1492, which was fifteen years earlier. This is also one of the last known maps made before Christopher Columbus. It would be yet another representation of the world of the time if we did not look carefully.



As on the map of Martin Waldseemüller, were represented the Bay of Bengal or “Sinus gangeticus,” with the Ganges, then the “Sinus Magnus.” We would therefore have South America to the East, as on the maps of Ptolemy dating from the Antiquity!

Another element that confirms that it is South America: all rivers located in the East of the continent correspond to the rivers of today:



Orinoco
Amazon River
Tocantins River
San Francisco River
Paraguay River
Paraná River
Colorado River
Rio Negro River
Chubut River

Again, how could Henricus Martellus know South America before it was discovered?

It is perhaps the map of Andreas Walsperger, German cartographer of the 15th century, which gives the answer. Designed forty years earlier, in 1450, it is shown in the Arab style, namely the South above. Let's present it in the North-South sense:



This strip of land could be Baja California.

The area to the east resembles the American continent, with the southern part here.

This island would correspond to Japan.



But Siberia and Alaska would be connected, as when it was possible to walk from America to Asia. At that time the sea was lower by about one hundred meters (91 y.) and the Bering Strait did not exist. But it was 12,000 years ago!

Is it reasonable to think that Andreas Walsperger represented the world as it existed 12,000 years ago?

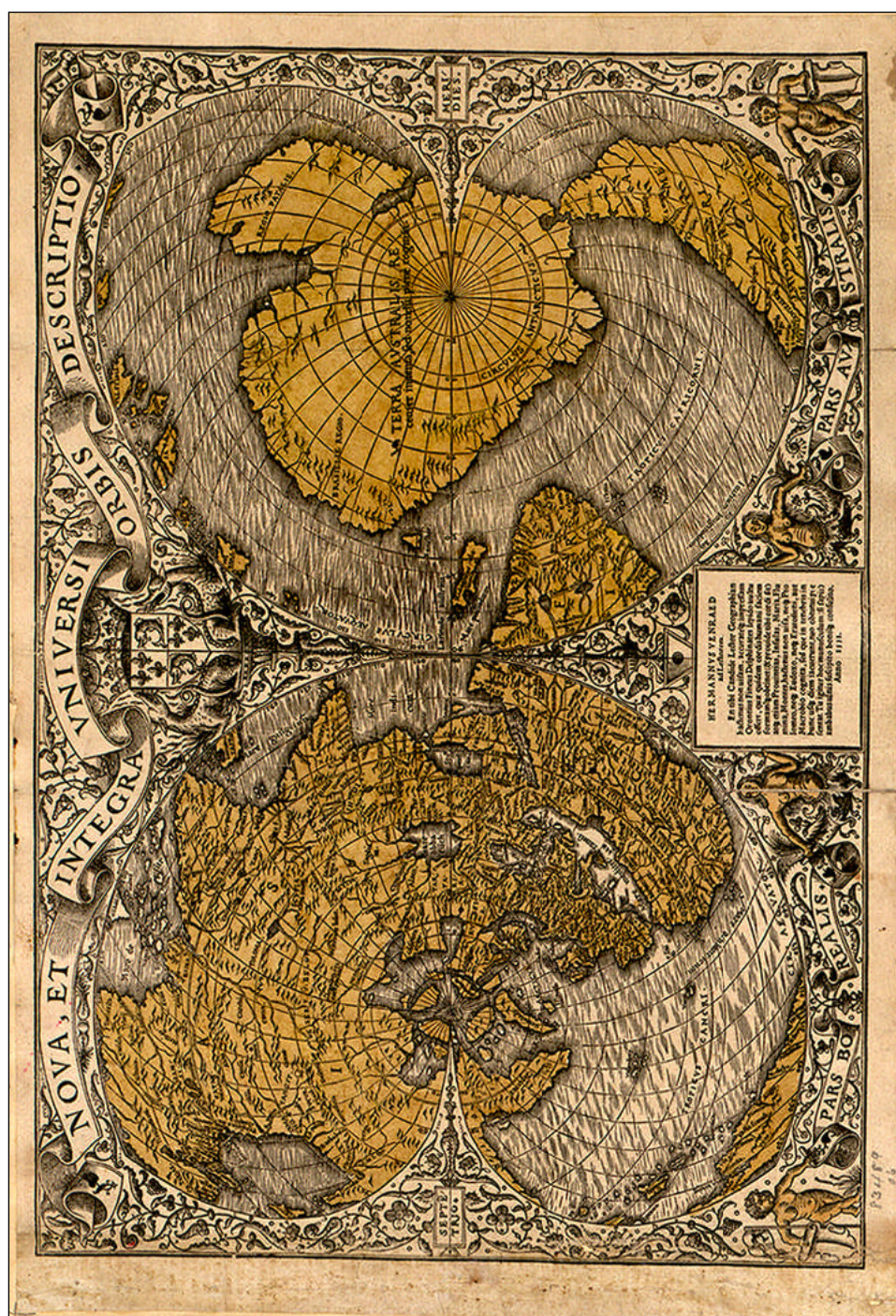
Chapter 8

Antarctica

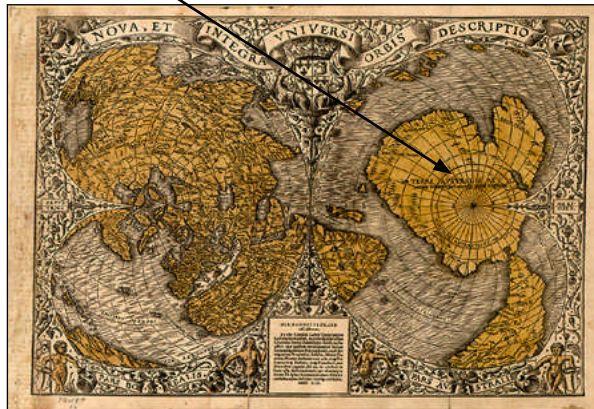
We had already mentioned that the South Pole is said to have been officially seen, (“seen,” not even explored), for the first time in 1820. However, two French maps of the 16th century totally question the validity of the official chronology.

1) Oronce Finé

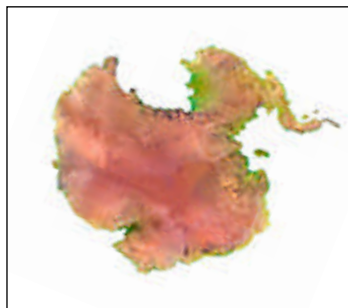
A mathematician, astronomer and French cartographer, he lived from 1494 to 1555. Renowned for having produced France’s first printed map, he drew this map of the globe in 1531, the year that he was appointed to the chair of mathematics at the Collège Royal, the future College de France:



What is immediately striking is the importance on the right of the map of the South Pole, called “Terra Australis.”



In comparing with a satellite picture of Antarctica, we find that the outlines are similar. How can Oronce Finé draw a continent about which he supposedly didn't know, since it will only be officially seen for the first time in 1820, i.e. three centuries later?



In addition, he added mountains and rivers. Indeed, scientific research confirmed that major rivers flowed in the South Pole but disappeared thousands of years ago, since the time that Antarctica was buried under ice.

Oronce Finé had therefore drawn the South Pole just as it existed thousands of years ago and like no human being was supposed to have ever seen it. How was this then possible?

Perhaps he drew rivers and mountains because he did not know that the continent was covered by ice, since he obviously did not go there.



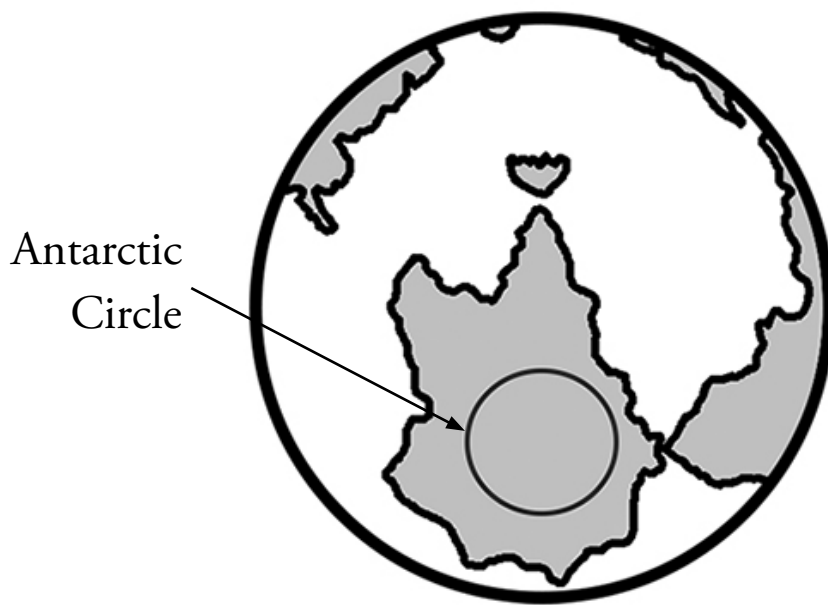
Oronce Finé has perhaps represented Australia, not the South Pole. Indeed, the shape is similar. But the position does not match. And Oronce Finé added the words “Antarctic Circle.” So there is no doubt: it is Antarctica.



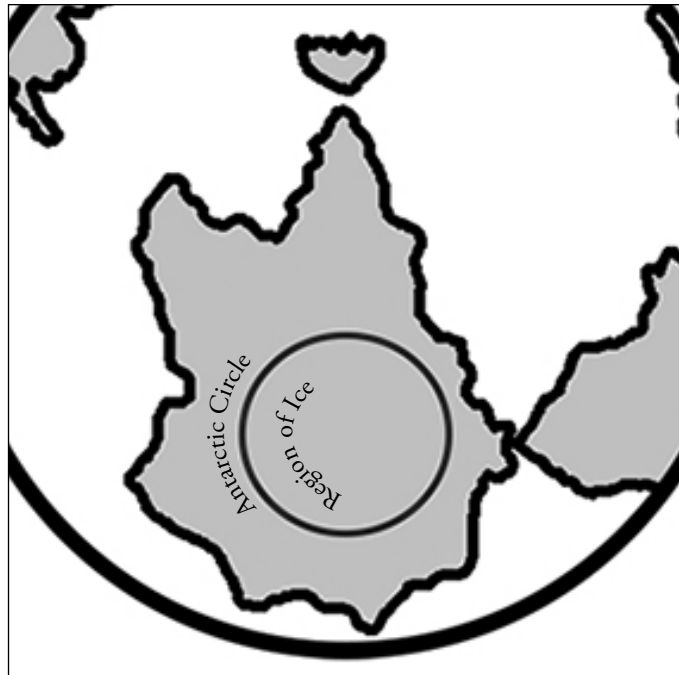
Oronce Finé's map remains very mysterious.

2) Jacques de Vaulx

The map in the beautiful book “First Works of Jacques de Vaulx, Driver for The King in the Navy” dating back to 1583 is also mysterious. On this map is represented the southern land, also known as “Antarctica.” It is therefore not Australia, but clearly the South Pole. The outline resembles Oronce Finé's map but their differences prove that their sources also differ.



What is even more amazing is that Jacques de Vaulx added the incredible words “Region of Ice.” How did he know that the South Pole was under ice more than two centuries before its discovery? Furthermore, the map seems to show that only a part of the continent is under the ice, which looks even more incredible, as the South Pole is supposed to have been under the ice for more than 10,000 years.



So, how can we explain Oronce Finé's and Jacques de Vaulx's maps? At best, we can imagine that they became inspired by older maps. Then, we must admit that men had visited the South Pole in the 16th century and perhaps even before.

“Impossible!”, object the historians.

Oronce Finé's response to this claim is the Latin inscription that he wrote on his map:

Center immensa, sed nondum plene cognita



It means:

“Large center, but not yet fully known.”

Yes, we read: “but not yet **fully** known!”

This proves, without any doubt, that a part was known, so Antarctica had already been explored.

But by whom?

Was it by the men of the Middle Ages while this hostile continent was covered by ice? Or by visitors before the ice age, that is to say thousands of years ago?

This hypothesis then implies that these visitors would have drawn maps which were kept in France until at least the 16th century.

But who, more than 10,000 years ago, could reach the South Pole and draw it precisely, as seen from the sky?

The mystery becomes even thicker than the ice of Antarctica.

Conclusion

At the end of this journey into the heart of the ancient maps, one question remains: how could all these cartographers through the centuries represent islands and continents considered not to have been found and which they knew nothing about at all? And, even more amazing, to have drawn them as they no longer existed for thousands of years? No one knows. Since they did not go there themselves, the most probable hypothesis is that they had old maps. Obviously, it is impossible to know the sources of these maps. Then all hypotheses remain open. One day perhaps, archaeological excavations will exhume one.

Meanwhile, the mystery of ancient maps remains complete. But we now know that our ancestors knew more about the world than what we believed.

Therefore, it is without doubt very important to revise our historical knowledge, since the ancient maps prove that official history is not quite correct, if not “Completely False.”

“The Mystery of the Ancient Maps” starts with two maps of the 10th century, with America drawn **five centuries before** the arrival of Christopher Columbus, who obviously did not discover the New World.

Thus, not only does this book definitely question the official history about the discovery of America, but also about Australia, Africa and Antarctica, because the information shown on these maps was supposedly impossible in their time.

In the end, all these maps also question the official history of mankind, all the more as these continents are sometimes drawn as they existed thousands of years ago. How is that possible? Who could have drawn them?

As unbelievable as it may seem, it is now before our eyes.

Patrick Pasin has been studying archaeology and secret history for many years. It was after discovering new evidence that he began writing “The Mystery of the Ancient Maps,” which he has also produced and directed in the form of a documentary, in order to share these revelations.