World chart, which includes America and a large *Terra Java* (Australia?). The chart was originally folded and bound into front of the accompanying volume by an extension which bears a coat of arms. Guillaume Brouscon was a Breton cartographer of the Dieppe school in the 16th century. He was from the port of Le Conquet, near Brest, which is shown prominently in large red lettering on his 1543 map of the world. He published his Brouscon’s *Almanachs* in 1546, which were used for their information on tides by English, French and Breton sailors. They allowed to known the direction of tidal currents, and to calculate tide level depending on the phase of the moon. This world chart, which includes America and a large promontory of the *Terre Ostrale [Terra Australis]* is inscribed in its northern part *terre de lucac* (Locach) and America and a large *Terra Java* (Australia?).

The border is highly colored with acanthus leaves and figures. Black ink is used for nomenclature in a minuscule script with area names in display script; land masses are outlined in green with islands painted red, blue, gold, or silver; 12 elaborate compass roses with usual 32 rhumb line network in black, red, and green ink are used for the principal directions; four numbered latitude scales (with portions offset) are shown but no longitude is provided; small numbered scale of distance is in gold; colorfully decorated with banners, coats of arms, urns, etc.
The map was probably made in Brittany (Le Conquet, near Brest?) by Guillaume Brouscon. This world chart bears the initials “G. B.” and year “1543” in the border. Although the historian Henry Harrisse in Découverte and others have ascribed the work to Giovanni Benedetto, it is now attributed to Guillaume Brouscon because of the Breton saints in the calendars, the Breton port nomenclature, and the marked similarity to Brouscon manuscripts in other libraries, such as London, Brit. Lib. Add. 22721 signed and dated 1543 and Cambridge, Magdalene College.

On the extension of the world map originally bound into the front of the volume are the arms of Artus de Cossé, Maréchal de France (1512-82), the first owner (?); his name is penciled below the coat of arms, and arms are described on flyleaf of the volume by a later owner. Given by a Dr. Moore (of Paris) ca. 1850 to Joseph Brooks Yates (1780-1855). Bequeathed by him to Henry Yates Thompson (1838-1928), whose bookplate is on front flyleaf marked “95, Inherited J. B. Y. 1856” (Cat. II, 1902, 2d series, n. 95). His sale, Sotheby’s, 3 June 1919, pt. I, n. 27 with reproductions of the coat of arms and portion of the world chart to G. D. Smith from whom it was acquired by Henry E. Huntington.

This 1543 world map contain, eleven golden compasses that surround an even larger compass situated in the western region of Africa. All of these golden compasses resemble the sun. European flags and crests decorate the New World and Europe. The mapmaker extended a small portion of his map in the right hand corner to include a large European crest. Brouscon did not complete the Western and Northern borders of North America. Note that Brouscon’s portrayal of South America is shaped oddly like an outline of Australia, even to the extent of including Tasmania as a southern peninsula.


Location: HM 46. Portolan Atlas and Nautical Almanac, Date: 1543, Huntington Library, San Marino, California
South America
The abundant cartographical imagery suggested the fascination of imagining how space extended far beyond a situated eye, and a sort of key to processing the extent of that dramatically expanded spatial expanse of the inhabited world. But for Brouscon Java was both a continent of sorts, that extended to the pole, and needed to be accommodated by an extra flap of paper to be contained, but an uninhabited or at least unknown place in the Terra Austral, jutting up to Indonesia to reflect geographic tradition and, perhaps, to balance the landmasses distributed elsewhere on the chart.