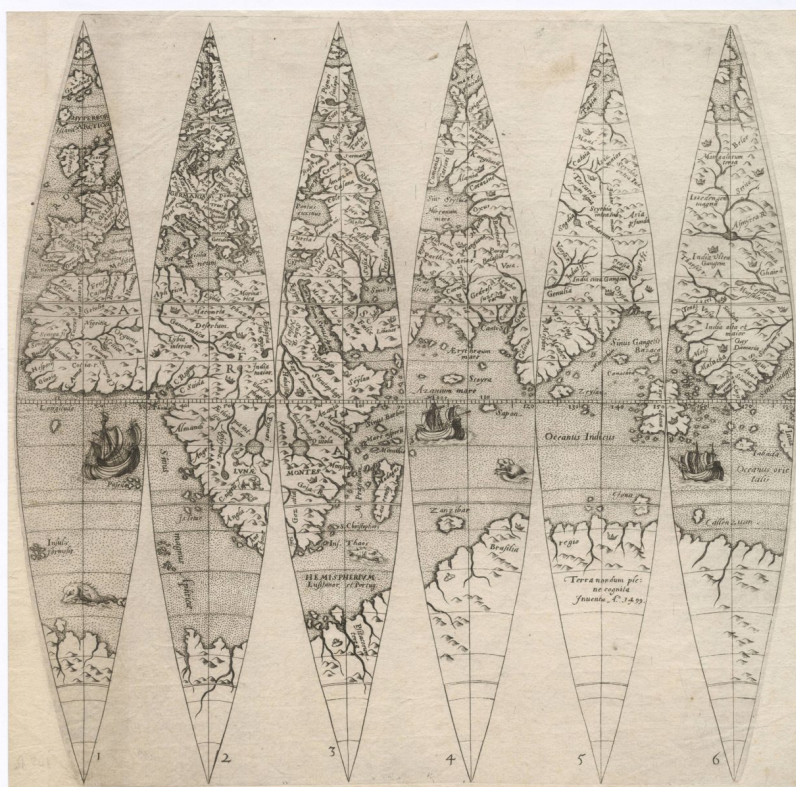




Nova et integra universi Orbis descriptio, by Willem Nicolai, 1603

An extremely rare set of gores for a 6½-inch diameter globe, one of only three known examples extant; a cartographic puzzle. These gores are somewhat mysterious, being archaic in style, with a world outline of that known 50 years prior to publication, based on the geography of globes produced by Demongenet, c.1560 (#387), and Vopel, c.1536 (#364). Excepting three lines of Latin text in the Antarctic continent, and a slightly different placing of gore numbers, Nicolai's engraving is virtually identical to a set of undated gores by Joannes Oterschaden (#423), but it is not known how they are related. Little is known about Willem Nicolai; he appears to have been a publisher and engraver, with Tooley's Dictionary of Mapmakers (rev. ed.) stating: 'thought to have worked in Lyons and Avignon, also possibly Leiden.' Perhaps the confusion about Lyon and Leiden comes from these gores, for although the imprint clearly states '*Lugduni*' (modern-day Lyon in France), Shirley gives Leiden. This might be because he is described as '*Gulielmus Nicolai Belga*' in the imprint (although it would make sense to state nationality if the cartographer was working outside his country of origin); and secondly, when Shirley was compiling *Mapping the World*, the only other set of these gores then known was in the University of Leiden. Since publication, another set of Nicolai gores mounted as a globe sold at auction (Sotheby's Important Furniture, Silver And Ceramics, 06 July 2010, lot 86). *Shirley World* 241.

This is a set of 12 engraved gores, on two sheets (each approx. 260 x 267mm), 6 gores to each sheet numbered 1-12, gores 1-2 and 7-9 numbered to right-hand side of gore, nos. 3-6 and 10-12 numbered to left-hand side of gore, the gores forming a terrestrial globe with a diameter of 16.4cm (6½ in.), title cartouche in gore 11, and place, name and date in a cartouche on gore 12, Antarctic continent labeled '*Terra nondum plene cognita inventa Ao. 1499*' in gore 5. These globe gores present a cartographic curiosity. They are a reproduction of a rare set of gores made by Gulielmus Nicolai in 1603, according to a cartouche floating on the Atlantic Ocean. Yet the cartography resembles that of the world maps made around 50 years before. In fact, the East Indian islands are labeled as "recently discovered 1520". Furthermore, there is no recognition of the important work done by cartographers like Ortelius, Mercator or even Gastaldi. This is because Nicolai's work was modeled on the globes made by Caspar Vopell and Francois Demongenet in 1536 and 1560 respectively, which show the newly-found central America but lack many lands identified later in the sixteenth century.

Even more mysteriously, they are almost identical to a set of gores produced around the same time by Joannes Oterschaden (#423), down to the placement and design of the cartouches. Both globemakers originated from 'Belga' – either the Low Countries or northeastern France – and were known to have worked in France during the first half of the 17th century. Although Shirley states that it is unclear who copied from whom, Dekker dates the Oterschaden globe as the earlier version (GLB0119). In either case the mystery of their archaic style persists. The Bibliotheque nationale de France hold two facsimiles of these gores, much like the present examples, which are photostatic reproductions.

These complete set of gores on two sheets by Nicolai. Copperplate engravings, each sheet ca 26 x 25.5 cm are an extremely rare and important set of gores for a terrestrial globe, important for the early exploration and mapping of the world. This is the second example known. The other copy is in the Leiden University Library. The set is complete and consists of 12 engraved gores on two sheets, 6 gores to each sheet, numbered 1-6 and 7-12, each sheet 260 x 255 mm. The gores are intended for a terrestrial

globe with a diameter of 165 mm (6½ inches). The title cartouche is in gore 11, east of North America. The impression with place, author and date is in a cartouche on gore 12, east of South America.



Silver Terrestrial Globe by Johannes Oterschaden (fl. 1580-1603), 2.5 inches diameter

The cartographic image of this globe is about 60 years older than the date of 1603 that is given in the title cartouche, meaning that it is either copied from an archaic model or it is a re-issue of an older plate. The globe content is based on the Caspar Vopel's 28 cm globe of 1542 (see for instance these reproductions of his Western Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere). The title is identical to Vopel's title, the toponyms are all from Vopel, and the cartographic image is nearly identical except for two differences. The first difference is that Vopel has America joined with Asia, whereas Nicolai has them separated by a sea strait of 10-15 degrees of latitude. The second difference is that Vopel does not yet have the Orellana discovery of the Amazon River in 1541-1542.

Nicolai's engraving is similar to a set of undated gores by Joannes Oterschaden, but it is not known how they are related.

Europe. Because of the size of the globe, the maker had to restrict to the most important features of Europe. Upper case lettering is used for *HISPANIA*, *GALLIA*, and *GERMANIA*, and italic lower case lettering for the other countries, including Portugal with Lusitania south of it. While southern Europe and the Mediterranean Sea are quite accurate, northern Europe is more inaccurate, especially Scandinavia. Lapland has pygmies: *Pigmei finlapie*. Note that the last two letters of the inscription *EUROPA* are missing.

Asia. Asia still has a strong Ptolemaic character, especially in the nomenclature. There is an *India citra*, an *India Ultra Gangem*, a *Sinus Gangetis*, a *Sinus Magnus*, in the interior *Imaus mons* with *Scythia intra Ind* and *Scythia extra Ind*. In the far north we see Pliny's *Cape of Tabin*. The empire of *Serica* (the Land of the Silk) is the ancient Greek/Roman reference to China.

Many toponyms are from Marco Polo's journal, especially in eastern Asia. We see the Empire of the great Cham with a crowned emperor, *Cathay*, *Quinsay*. *Karakorum*, the capital of the Tartar emperor, is shown as *Coran et Cotan*. The island of *Zipangri* (Japan) is east of Asia, but closer to America than to Asia. *Desertum Lop* (The desert of Lop) has been moved even further from Asia into western America. The mythical lands or monsters of *Gog et magog* are at the far eastern end of Asia, north of the *Pigmei*.

The Indies and South East Asia already show the results of the early Portuguese voyages of discoveries. India has the port of Calicut, reached by Vasco da Gama in 1497-99. Malacha is depicted, as well as the port or province of *Cantao* (Canton) in China. The Molucca spice islands have a legend *Insulae novae inventa A° 1520*, referring to Magellan's voyage. The globe has the earliest Magellan/Pigafetta representation of the Philippine islands, including *Suban* (Cebu), where Magellan was killed. *Burnei*, *Java minor* and *Porn* are early references to the island of Borneo. Under the Southeast Asian Islands is the inscription *Archi Pelagus*, to emphasize the nature of the area. The Indian Ocean is named *Oceanus Indicus* and *Oceanus orieta[n]lis*.

Arabia is in the Ptolemaic rendering, except that *Mecha* has been added, which is very early for Western maps that go back to the 1540s.

Africa. Africa follows the common depiction of the mid 16th century, following the travel accounts of Ludovico Varthema for East Africa and Cadamosto for West Africa. The interior still follows the sources from antiquity, with the Nile sources in the *Lunae Montes* [Mountains of the Moon]. The Niger river system also follows the Ptolemaic tradition. An elephant is depicted in southern Africa, together with a flying snake. Portuguese trade caravels are depicted around Africa and in the Indian Ocean.

Underneath Africa, in accordance with the *Treaty of Tordesilas* of 1494, the Eastern Hemisphere is labeled as Portuguese (*HEMISPHERIUM Lusitanor, et Portug.*), while the Western Hemisphere is labeled as Spanish (*Hispanorum hemispherium*).

America. As with all 16th century maps, the early depiction of the New World is of particular interest. The outline of South America is shaped more correctly than with Ortelius and others in the 16th century. The most important rivers can be identified. The Amazon River flows from east to west, as explored by Orellana in 1541-42. It flows into a *Mare Dulce* (Sea of fresh water, caused by the Amazon River). The *Rio de la Plata* (River Plate) and Magdalena River are quite up-to-date. Most place names date back to Magellan's first circumnavigation of 1519-22. In large capitals, the name AMERICA is written over the whole of South America, in smaller italics it also has the older name *Nova Terra*. It has *inventa 1497*, a common inaccuracy for the discovery of the South American mainland. Peru is labeled as a province, indicating it has already been conquered and incorporated in the Spanish Empire. *Brasilia regio* is south of *Papagalli regio* which is south of *Canibales*.

The Caribbean is named *Sinus S. Michael* and has *Iucatan* as an island, the islands of *Cozmella* (Cozumel), *Cuba*, *Hispaniola*, *Iamaica* and the mythical Island of *Antiglia*. The Bahama islands that Columbus discovered are shown as *Bori*, *Selan*, and *Canibalarum Insulae*. Mexico City (*Temistitan*) is shown as a port in a bay on the Pacific coast, with Marco Polo's hearsay island of Japan (*Zipangri*), much closer to America than to Asia.

North America is named *HISPANIA NOVA* and is separated from Asia by a narrow strait. This is a major difference with the Vopel globe of 1542 on which this globe is based. Vopel's globe has North America as part of eastern Asia. This was a contested and controversial issue at the time, so much so that Vopel gives an elaborate explanation on his world map of 1545 to defend his choice by explaining that Charles V, emperor of

the Holy Roman Empire including the Americas, had personally reassured scientists during a visit to Cologne that North America was definitely part of Asia.

Topographical entries are sparse for North America. The southeast has *Terra Florida*. Canada's northeast is given as *Baccalearum regio* [the region of codfish]. The island south of it, named *Bovica*, may well refer to Cape Breton Island, where the Portuguese under João Álvares Fagundes had established a fishing colony as early as 1521-22. This Portuguese colony's fate is unknown, but it is mentioned as late as 1570. The Mississippi is indicated as a large river, but not named. *Cinyscole* most probably refers to the legendary seven cities of Cibola. There is no trace of California, even though its southernmost point had already been discovered in 1532. Some of Marco Polo's toponyms have spilled over from the Far East into North America (*Desertum Lop*, *Campestris bergi*). East of North America, in accordance with the Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494, the Western Hemisphere is labeled as Spanish (*Hispanorum hemispherium*).

The Mariana Islands, discovered by Magellan, are shown in the middle of the Pacific right on the equator as *Latronum Insulae* (Ladrones islands, Islands of the Thieves). Pigafetta writes: "Those people are poor, but ingenious and very thievish, on account of which we called those three islands the islands of Ladrones."

Australia, the Southland and the Pacific. The Nicolai globe is of special interest to Australia and the Pacific. The southern continent is quite pronounced and has three named regions: *Psitacorum terra* (Land of the Parrots). *Brasilia regio* with a city on a river and a crown to indicate that it is a kingdom. Near the coast, in the southern Indian Ocean, are the islands of *Iona* and *Callenzuam*, that first appear on Waldseemüller's 1507 wall map of the world (#310).

Regio Patalis, a mysterious region described in antiquity by Pliny the Elder and Strabo. Many 16th century cosmographers situated this region on a large promontory of the southland, roughly in the area of the Australian continent. Like *Brasilia regio*, it has a crown to indicate that it is a kingdom. This big promontory in the southern Pacific labeled as *Regio Patalis*, is a mythical land that has often been identified with Australia. Symbols of crowns indicate multiple kingdoms on the southland.

The southland has an inscription *Terra nondum plene cognita Inventa A°*. 1499 [Lands not yet fully known, discovered in the year 1499]. This has sometimes been used as evidence of an early Portuguese discovery of Australia.

Because the cartographic image is of 1542 or shortly after that, the Pacific cartography is based solely on the discoveries of Magellan, the first European explorer to circumnavigate the world and to navigate the Pacific. The middle of the Pacific has the inscription *Indicum et Austr. Mare* (Indian [Seas] and South Seas). Close to the Southland, two islands are situated, *Infortunatae et desertae*, [Unfortunate and uninhabited isles], so called by Magellan, because they had neither men nor suitable provisions or fresh water.

In the southern Pacific, Vopel's *OCEANUS MAGELLANICUS* [Magellan's Ocean] has been corrupted into *Oceanus Magnus Gellanicus*, suggesting that the engraver who copied toponyms from Vopel's globe was not proficient in cartography.

A famous copper globe (the Welser globe) is nearly identical to the Nicolai globe, they are presumed to go back to the same source. The Welser globe is undated but is believed to be from 1545-1550. It was made by Christoff Schniepp or the famous Welser family of German financiers. They were bankers to the Habsburgs and financiers of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor. They financed expeditions to the Indies and made an attempt to colonize Venezuela. Hand-etched on copper, it is a one-of-a-kind piece whose

cartography was inspired by contemporary world maps and globes. For the Welsers, a prestigious object such as this was a means of asserting their power and wealth and the geographical reach of their trading ambitions.

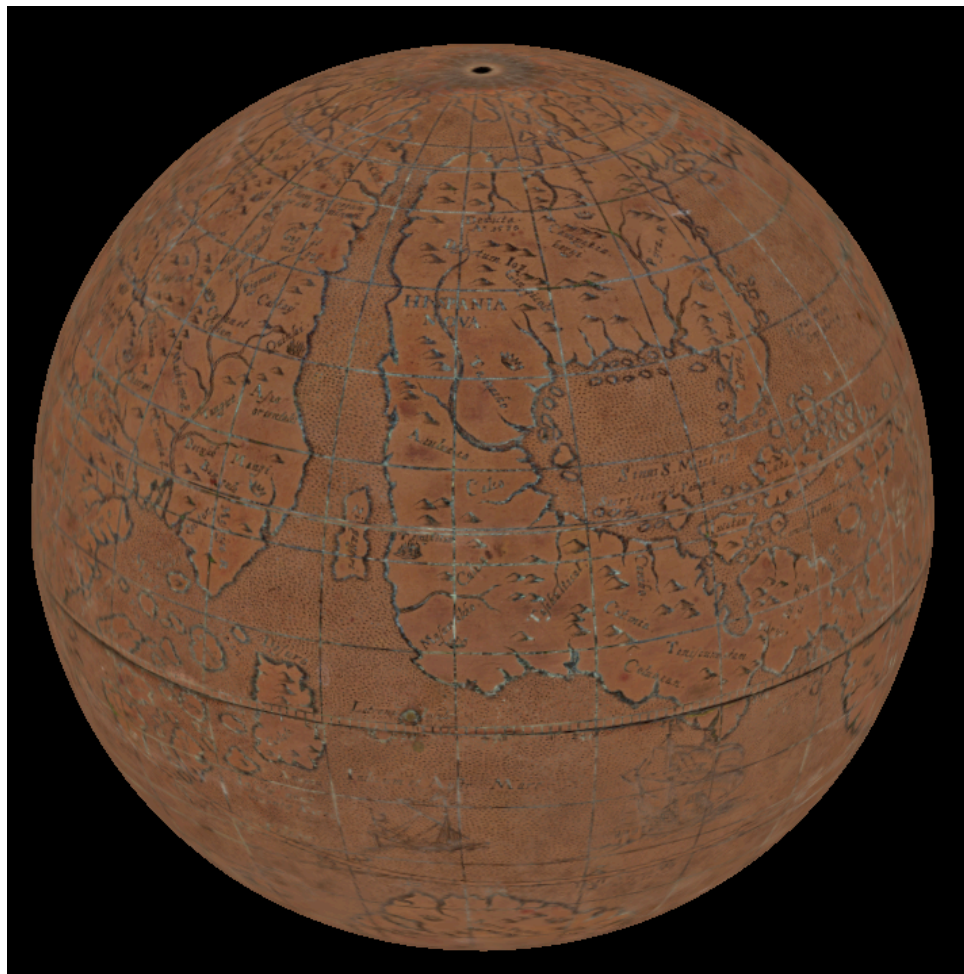
In the mid-16th century, the Holy Roman Empire dominated European trade and finance, notably with families of merchants and bankers such as the Fuggers and the Welsers. The Wesler Globe is now in Bibliotheque Nationale Paris, including an online 3D version. It is frequently included in prestigious exhibitions.

In 2018, Christie's New York auctioned a silver version of this globe for USD \$62,500 (Sale 16082 lot 20).

, Christoff Schniepp, after 1550, Augsbourg, Germany diameter 22 cm. W : 27 cm, H : 36 cm, etched copper

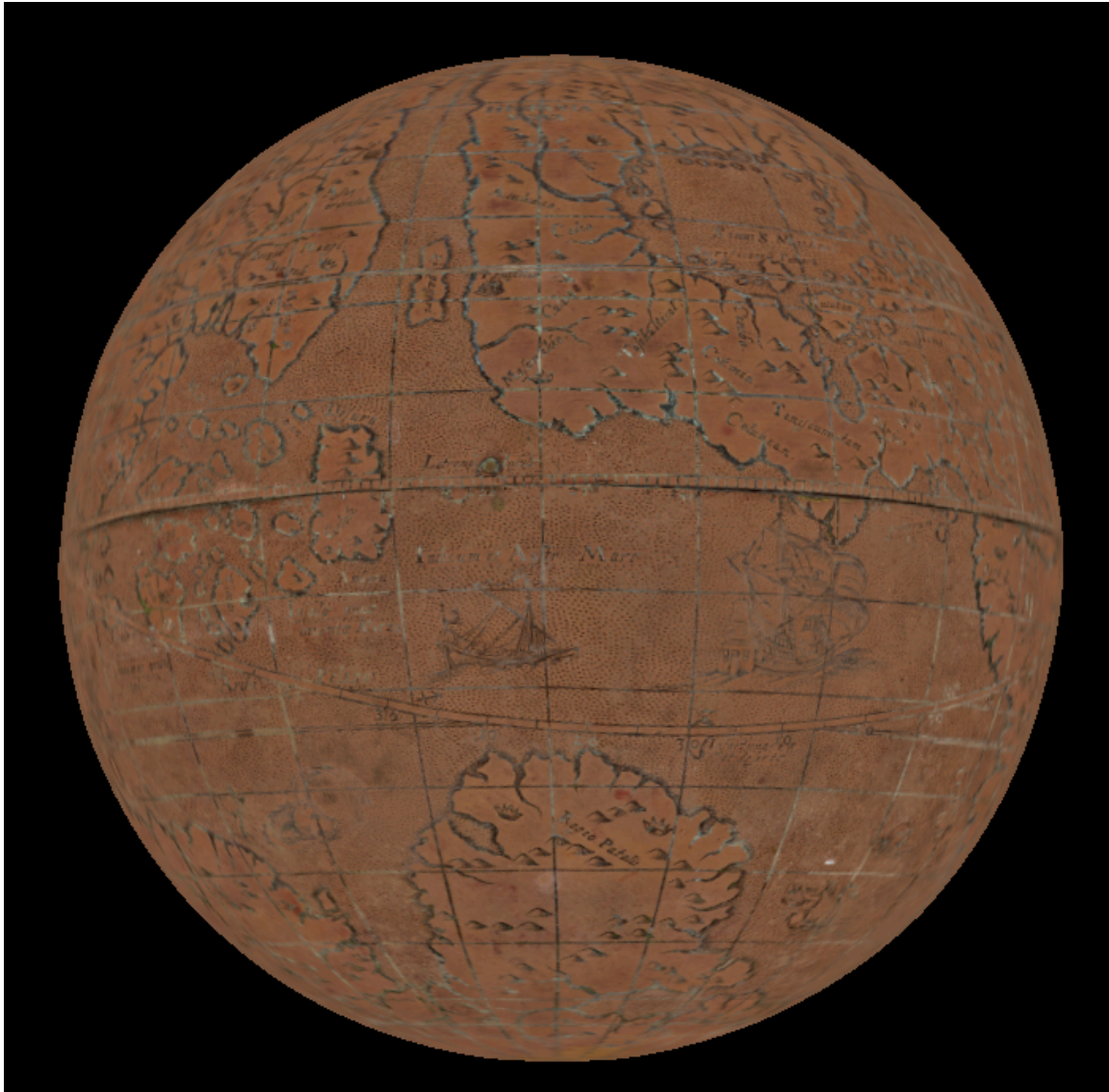
In the mid-16th century, the Holy Roman Empire dominated European trade and finance, notably with families of merchants and bankers such as the Fuggers and the Welsers. The following globe was made for the latter, who undertook expeditions to the Indies and attempted to colonize Venezuela.

Hand-etched on copper, it is a one-of-a-kind piece whose cartography was inspired by contemporary world maps and globes. For the Welsers, a prestigious object such as this was a means of asserting their power and wealth and the geographical reach of their trading ambitions. The decorative aspect of the globe is enhanced by the meridians and legs; its marble base may have been added at a later date.





Nova et integra universi orbis descriptio (the Welser's globe)





*Facsimile produced by Dr. D. W. Larson, Emeritus Professor
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada*



1603 Nicolai Willem's facsimile produced by Dr. D. W. Larson, Emeritus Professor
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