The outline of Florida is one of the most internationally recognized peninsulas in the world, primarily due to its popularity as a vacation destination. It is also one of the first early recognizable landmarks in the age of discovery/exploration during the 16th century. Florida is Spanish for “land of flowers” and is, today, the southernmost contiguous state in the United States. The state is bordered to the west by the Gulf of Mexico, to the northwest by Alabama, to the north by Georgia, to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and to the south by the Straits of Florida. However, the label “Florida” often referred to the entire southeast region of present-day United States, and, over time was reduced to its current outline. This outline, while distinctive as a protruding peninsula on the newly discovered continent, would take over two hundred years after its initial discovery to reach a cartographically accurate outline.

Florida before Columbus: There are some historians that believe there is cartographic evidence of the Florida peninsula before its European “discovery” in the late 15th/early 16th century. Among those proponents is Gunnar Thompson. In his book, *The Friar’s Map of Ancient America 1360 A.D.* (pages 227-239), he presents the following cartographic “evidence”.
According to Thompson numerous maps available to medieval mariners showed the relative position of Florida in ancient times. The earliest version, a map by the English Franciscan, Nicholas of Lynn ca. 1380, survives in a later 1414 copy by the Venetian cosmographer Albertin deVirga (monograph #240). Many cartographers had access to the friar’s manuscript and surveys which he called The Inventio Fortunatae. This book is frequently referenced as a map source as late as the 16th century. Variations of the original survey appeared with modifications from 1414 through the mid-1500’s. These maps showing an Asian peninsula having the right characteristics for Florida (a southeastward tending peninsula adjacent to an enormous gulf with large isles in the western Atlantic) confirm, according to Thompson, that European knowledge of the
North American peninsula was widespread and enduring, although most Europeans erred in believing the overseas land was either Asia or connected to Asia. Some referred to the region as *Farthest India* or *India Superior*, names used by classical scholars; others mistakenly believed it was the Asian coast identified by Marco Polo. The Lisbon globe-maker, Martin Behaim, was content to call the northern continent the *Tartary Wilderness*. Toscanelli’s estimate (monograph #252) of the distance across the ocean, some 3,000 miles, and his wilderness coastline approximating the actual position of Florida are too accurate for mere coincidence according to Thompson.

Thompson’s composite chart of coastlines of territory presumed to be East Asia with a southeastern peninsula called the *Horn of Asia* shows the peninsula moving steadily towards the actual location of Florida. The target symbol marks the Columbus landing site on the coast of Cuba in 1492. At this location, he took celestial measurements using an astrolabe, and he wrote in his ship’s log that he had reached land where he expected to find Cipangu [Japan]: “On the globes which I saw and in the paintings of *mappaemundi*, it (Japan) is in this vicinity.” Wilbur Garrett, Editor of National Geographic (1986), noted that Columbus had sailed approximately 3,000 miles to the place where Martin Behaim’s globe (see monograph #258) showed the location of Japan. Behaim’s coastline from his globe of 1492 (H) is indicated by the heavy black line at the center of the illustration. Behaim’s peninsula was about 1,000 miles too far west—which isn’t that far off from the true position of Florida. The real coast of Asia is another 12,000 miles farther west. Historians generally assume that Columbus reached this land purely by accident. However, the fact that European cartographers sequentially modified the location of the southeastern peninsula and its adjacent isle (Cuba or
Antilia) reveals that, according to Thompson, Columbus reached lands that had already been identified in physical reality, and he knew where to find them due west from the Canary Isles along the Tropic of Cancer for about 3,000 miles. We know that there were many Portuguese voyages into the Atlantic during the 15th century. Historians typically assume that they did not amount to anything. But the fact is that maps betray the navigational successes of those voyages in spite of a secrecy policy which cloaked Portuguese expeditions.

In addition to those maps represented in the figures above, Thompson also includes The Yale Vinland map of 1440 (#243), and the Genoese map of 1457 (#248).

Needless to say, not everyone agrees with the hypothesis presented by Thompson and others who espouse these theories of pre-Columbian mapping of the Florida peninsula. As you will see below, not everyone even agrees with the representation of what appears to be the Florida peninsula on the early 16th century maps. The problem often lies with evaluating old maps with 21st century knowledge and perceptions, rather than more rigorous scientific and analytical research into contemporary 15th and 16th century knowledge and perception.

Below is a comparison of the depiction of the Florida peninsula on 12 selected early 16th century maps (from David O. True’s article).
The Cantino map of 1502

By 1500 the North American coastline remained fragmentary, because up to this time probes by the Europeans had been made only to the West Indies, Nova Scotia-Newfoundland, part of the South American coast, and possibly Florida. Portions of this explored area were recorded on manuscript and printed maps, but gaps in the coastline were not filled in until further explorations looking for a route to the Far East took place during the 16th century. The unknown Portuguese cartographer of the Cantino map divides North America into three disconnected landmasses, widely separated from one another:

- **Punte de Asia** [Greenland?]
- **Terra del Rey de portugall** [Newfoundland?]
- the land to the northwest of **yssabella** [Cuba], which has been variously interpreted as representing Florida, Yucatan, and unintentional repetition of Cuba, or a peninsula in East Asia.

A significant point to be kept in mind in the discussion of the maps of Cantino and Caveri (#307) and their chief derivative, the Waldseemüller world map of 1507 (#310), is that, whether or not they regarded Newfoundland as an island, they showed Verrazzano and his contemporaries no connection of solid land between Newfoundland and the Florida landmass portrayed on them. On the contrary, the maps of this group display between Florida and Newfoundland a large area of open water, offering unimpeded passage to an explorer seeking a route to the China coast. The maps of this *Lusitano-Germanic group* of the next twenty years or more, manuscript and printed, pictured this relationship one to another of the Newfoundland and Florida areas.

Northwest of **Ilha yssabella** on the Cantino map a coastline is laid down marked **Parte de Assia** and bearing names from Columbus’ first two voyages. This area, which is incomplete and partially off the map, perhaps is the greatest unsolved cartographic puzzle of the period. Although **yssabella** strongly resembles Cuba, and the peninsula to
Could this be one of the first depiction of the Florida peninsula on a map?
If we are seeing Cuba (C) and Florida (B), no one knows from whom this information came, as Florida was not formally discovered by the Europeans until 1513. There is speculation that an early Amerigo Vespucci voyage may have been the source, or that an unknown Portuguese pilot could have unofficially sailed through Spanish waters before 1500 and coasted Florida. The islands at the southern extremity strongly indicate a knowledge of the Florida keys and Tortugas; the general peninsula-like shape of the landmass at the southern extremity of most of the maps of this type or group and the general northerly direction of the Atlantic coast (the Florida coast actually trends northwest, not northeast; Savannah, Georgia is almost a degree west of Miami) support the belief that the landmass represents the southeast part of the American continent.

(see monograph #306)
In North America Nicolo Caveri [Canerio] presents a new delineation of the Gulf of Mexico, with the peninsulas representing Yucatan and Florida. Although the relationships of Cuba, Yucatan and Florida are only partly correct, Caveri’s concept of the Gulf region was widely used for the next twenty years. (see monograph #307)
The 1507 Waldseemüller Map

Detail: North America – Florida, Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean
Waldseemüller places a land to the west of Isabella Insula [Cuba], as do many of the other mapmakers of his time, La Cosa, Cantino, Ruysch and Caveri (#305, #308, #313, #307). The mainland and peninsula northwest of Cuba have place names along both coasts even though it was not officially mapped or named (Bemini) until 1511 by Peter Martyr and not officially “discovered” and named (Florida) by Ponce de Leon in 1513. The entire mainland above the peninsula is named Terra Ulteri Incognita [unknown land] on this Waldseemüller map. This area may represent the coast of China copied from Marco Polo, and placed here in the belief that the new discoveries were in and near Asia. Contarini (#308) and Ruysch (#313) distinctly record their belief on their maps that the contemporary explorers had reached China, as does the Columbus map and the letter of Columbus explanatory of his fourth voyage record the same view (#303, #304). However, this view is not supported on the Waldseemüller map either by the place-names found in the area of the new discoveries, or by the overall visual image presented by the placement of the new discoveries as totally separated by some distance from Asia. On the other hand, navigators unknown to modern historians, may have sailed along the coast of Florida at this time. In this respect, Waldseemüller may have been led by the maps of La Cosa, Caveri, and Cantino to believe that this was at least a possibility, for he depicts a small portion of the northern mainland extending from the narrow strait in Central America to just north of Terra Ulteri Incognita [Florida]. Here the northern coast terminates abruptly with open sea beyond approximately 50 degrees, with Newfoundland again being shown as an island far to the east. This interpretation is very similar to both Cantino and Caveri and helped keep alive the possibility of a northern access to the as yet unnamed Pacific and, of course, the riches of far Cathay.

Minority opinions since 1858 have disagreed that this landmass represents North America, suggesting other possibilities, among them the Yucatan of Mexico, Cuba, and Asia. Some have seen this geography as a fabrication; others have been smart enough (or cautious enough) not to speculate at all on this matter. Donald McGuirk’s article suggests that a number of these dissenting theories have all been partly correct: this landmass is Asia, Cuba and a fabrication, all in one. McGuirk places a lot of emphasis on the fact that, up to this time, no known European explorer had reported surveying this area (Gulf of Mexico, the Florida peninsula, etc.). However, if one examines the same landmass configuration on the earlier maps of Cantino (1502) and Caveri (1502-05) the similarities are very striking and represent, to me, the sources of the model chosen by Waldseemüller to depict this area.

The presence of a large number of unnamed islands is an interesting issue also. Historian Edward Luther Stevenson was of the opinion that the continental landmass depicted on the 1507 Waldseemüller map was North America. Despite this belief, however, he expresses the following sentiments regarding the many islands within “the Gulf of Mexico”:

The large gulf to the west of this peninsula bears an unmistakable resemblance to the Gulf of Mexico in outline. Here we have the only apparent indication that Canerio mistook the region for the extreme east [Asia]. In the numerous islands, promiscuously inserted and without name, there is the suggestion that he or the chart-maker he copied had knowledge of the account of Marco Polo in which that traveler relates what he had learned concerning the islands off the Asiatic coast.

With this statement, Stevenson suggests that the similar gulf depicted on the Waldseemüller map represents Marco Polo’s Gulf of Keinan, south of the province of Mangi, in Asia.
The mystery of Waldseemüller’s globe map, its definition of Florida (before it was discovered by the Spanish), the Pacific (before any man had officially seen it), the coast of South America (before anyone had officially sailed along it) and the use of the name *The Western Ocean* in the Pacific, all suggest that the Portuguese may have been more active west of the *Tordesillas Treaty Line* before 1505. Such information would have been kept secret by the Portuguese, and it is perhaps here in this globe that the secrets were first drawn up for a wider audience, particularly since Vespucci’s allegiance to Portugal changed when he became a Spanish citizen. *(see monograph #310)*

*The Caribbean area on Johannes Ruysch’s 1508 map entitled Universior Cogniti Orbis Tabula, Ex recentibus confecta observationibus. #313*

In Spanish maritime circles, knowledge of the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, and even much of the coast north of Florida (all of which fell within the Spanish maritime zone) was fairly complete by 1502-1504. In Peter Martyr’s work (*Legatio Babylonici*) of 1511, Florida appears as *Beimeni*, while the *Stobnicza* map in the Ptolemy of 1512 (#319), gives a rough view of North America, similar to that found in the Ptolemy of 1513 (#320). The very early map attributed to Leonardo da Vinci (#327) shows *Florida* as an island, but since the map was not published, no inference can be drawn from it. The maps of 1511, 1512 and 1513 nevertheless must have been known to every intelligent person engaged in globe making. Some of the labels placed on the peninsula northwest of Cuba by various mapmakers (some as late as 1530) are:

- Asia, because Columbus and Cabot believed that they had reached Asia or portions of it called India or the *Indies*. 

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• Cuba, because Columbus made his shipmates swear that they had reached the mainland of Asia when they were on the island of Cuba. Were they really on Florida (as shown on the 1516 map #320)?
• Juana, another name for Columbus’ Cuba.
• Yucatan, because it is more to the west of Cuba (or Isabella) rather than more to the north as Florida is.
• Paria, which is actually on the north coast of South America.
• Mangi, which is actually eastern Cathay (or China).
• Isabella, which was the most common name of that time for the island now known as Cuba. Cuba was actually named “Cuba” by Juan de la Cosa in 1500 (#305).
• Zoana Mela, said to be a corruption of the name Juana (which was said to be Columbus’ Cuba).
• Terra de Cuba Asia Partis [Land of Cuba part of Asia] which was the name that Waldseemüller put there on his 1516 Carta Marina (#320) because he had been criticized after 1507 for not giving due credit to Columbus. As stated above, Columbus made his crew swear that the area was part of the mainland of Asia. Waldseemüller also left the name America off of his 1513 and 1516 maps.
• No actual name, either, because they did not believe it was real or denial because any information they had was secret or anyone who explored it may have been in violation of the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas. Sometimes the peninsula was completely left off of maps of the area or shown as a sort of island, as on the Ruysch map (#313).
Novus Orbus, 1511, Peter Martyr

This extremely rare map is the first one dedicated solely to the New World, and records on it the information gathered on the earliest European explorations of the Americas. The map is the work of Peter Martyr d’Anghiera, and was published in only one of two known editions of his *Legatio Babylonica* of 1511. The map was compiled with information received from voyages up to around 1508, and is the first graphic record of the discovery of many places, including Florida, Bermuda and the Yucatan. The islands of Hispaniola and Cuba (or Isabella) are shown in a position similar to other maps but there is a land north of there depicted as a flat east-west coast labeled Beminie. One of the more intriguing aspects of the Martyr map is its inclusion of a reef and archipelago north of Cuba and a large coastline still farther north. This has been taken by many as evidence of the discovery of Florida, predating the official discovery by Ponce de Leon in 1513. The Florida peninsula is positioned directly north of Cuba and is further identified in Peter Martyr's descriptions. It is not only in the proper direction, but the distance from Hispaniola, as given by him, is correct. While no latitudes are marked on this map, we note that the Canary Islands, which are in about 28°N latitude, are on a line with the most southern point of Cuba. Comparing other known distances in the New World on this map would place Beminie at about 42°N.

This may have been based on information from the Taino Indians of Cuba who traded with the Florida peninsular Indians (Tequestas and/or Calusas). The existence of this land mass was what motivated the former Spanish governor of Puerto Rico, Juan Ponce de Leon, to sail there to claim the land for himself and look for gold and perhaps slaves. The King of Spain granted him the privilege to do so at his own expense after
having removed him as the head of the island of Puerto Rico (sometimes called Juana). The myth that Ponce de Leon was seeking a fountain of youth has been used as the explanation for his motivation to seek this land. The Fontenadas Memoires of 1579 however also mentions such a myth but it was said to be a river Jordan in a more northern location of the mainland. Stretching from Florida to the River Essequibo in the south and to Panama and the Yucatan in the west, the map provides an unparalleled picture of European (particularly Spanish) knowledge of the Western Hemisphere less than two decades after the its discovery by Christopher Columbus.

Writing at the end of the 19th century, the historian Henry Harrisse cogently explained why Florida must have been discovered before the official voyage of Ponce de Leon. According to his reasoning, Castilian pilots would have known of the existence of a large landmass to the northwest of Cuba, not just from the maps of Juan de la Cosa (#305), but also from Portuguese charts of the Caribbean. Harrisse points out that it would have extremely unlikely that maps showing a continent to the north and west of Florida were available in Italy and Germany, but that they would not have been known in Spain. Harrisse explains:

The first positive mention of countries to the west of the Lucayas islands visited by Spanish mariners about that time, is to be found in the map which accompanies certain issues of the first edition of certain works of Peter Martyr, published at Seville in 1511.

The reasons of a geographical character which prompted such attempts can easily be ascertained. The Castilian pilots knew of the existence of a northwestern continent, not only by the great maps of Juan de la Cosa, but also by Portuguese charts; for it is impossible that mappamundi of the type of Cantino and Canerio, which could be so easily obtained in Lisbon, and circulated in Italy and Germany, should have remained unknown to the Spaniards. The land, however, which haunted their imagination was supposed to be of a different type altogether, as the probability is that, with the conception of the value of things then prevalent, what they knew of our east coast was but little alluring to adventurers who were only in search of gold, pearls, and spice. They seem to have been led by the hope of discovering a number of imaginary islands, of which the Lucayan archipelago had given them a foretaste and idea, but surmised to be richer. And it was in their repeated endeavors to reach those insular regions that several bold mariners before Ponce de Leon, and afterwards that navigator himself, landed in Florida, which they then, and for a number of years, considered to be a mere island, though of vast size. But a distinction must be established at the outset. Different points of the Floridean [sic] peninsula were thus explored; these the Spanish pilots and cartographers believed to belong to separate islands. The Isla Bimini, Bimene, or Beniny, which seems to correspond with the most southern part of our Florida, was first seen and named, according to current information derived from the Lucayan Indians.

On the verso of the present map, Martyr wrote an epistle addressing Cardinal Ximenez. In it he expounded on the need to illustrate the text with a map. Importantly it includes the following allusion to the discovery of Florida:

“Ad septentrionem vero miras etiam terras micosque tractus reperunt quorum vestigia ceme dextrosum sculpta.” [At the north there have been discovered marvelous countries and lands, of which, on the recto [of the present leaf] see the engraved representation.]

It is particularly noteworthy that Martyr chose definite language to denote the actual discovery of these lands and to underline that his mapping represented a real place.
Both Las Casas and Herrera note that voyages to the lands north of Cuba and Lucayan archipelago happened around 1511 and that the knowledge of these voyages helped spur Ponce de Leon to explore the region. Later writing by Peter Martyr add some confusion to the precise dating of those voyages, which he seems to say happened after 1520. The most cogent appraisal of the available evidence is the aforementioned quoted from Harrisse.

Given his position in the Spanish court, Martyr had access to the most up to date information and rumors available to the Spanish, and through his sources, what was also known to the other European powers at the time. Douglas Peck highlights the regard with which this information was held, not only by Martyr, but also by Ponce de Leon:

Peter Martyr, a learned historian and cosmographer in the Spanish court, undoubtedly had access to all the knowledge and reports from the Spanish discoveries, from spies, and from Portuguese, French, and English expeditions. Ponce de Leon probably did not have a copy of this map, but, as an aristocratic conquistador, he had access to the same sources of information used by Martyr to draw his map. The Martyr map was among the latest knowledge available at the time of Ponce de Leon's planned voyage, and it became a graphic picture of the "news" of which he spoke. The large landmass north of Cuba, labeled on the Martyr map as the Isla de Beimeni parte, was the Islands of Beniny and was Ponce de Leon's goal according to his patent.

Most importantly, the geography presented by Martyr is very good; while Florida is a bit wider than it is in reality, its placement vis-a-vis Cuba is correct, and the islands north of Cuba surely represent the Florida Keys and Cay Sal Bank.
5.14

Freducci Map of 1515

This manuscript map is believed to be based on Ponce de Leon charts and is the first to use the name *Flori(da). The oversize interior feature on the southeast coast of the peninsula is not named but resembles St. Lucie Inlet. The west coast ends short of Charlotte Harbor. (Archivo di Stato, Florence). The original map is located in the Royal Archives at Florence, Italy, and is called the *Carta Nautica di Conte Ottoananno Freducci d'Ancona*. From this remarkable map, assuming that the estimated date is approximately correct, one finds four major contributions to Florida history. It is probably the first map to bear the name *Florida*. Here also is the earliest appearance of any city of North America on a map, the present city of Miami. It also shows that the Herrera designations of latitude readings in connection with landings at various places by Ponce de León were interpolated from much later sources. Furthermore, it helps to verify Sebastian
Cabot’s statement that he rounded the Cape of Florida. The level of detail and accuracy shown here will not be seen again for another 200+ years. You will note that in many of the examples to follow that the shape of the Florida peninsular remained rather “boxy” and “squared-off” at its southern end.

On the Freducci map of Florida, I. Florida (sic) is the top name, here Florida is designated as an island, for this was the belief of some early explorers. The Rio de Canons is identified by Dr. Cisco as the Indian River in the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society, 1913. The next place, on the map, reading down, is Chantio (Cautio in Kretschmer), the name that the Spanish historian Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas said was given to Florida by the Lucayan Indians. Pontad’Arcifés is Point of Reefs, spelled Arracifes by Herrera. Herrera mentions the Rio de la Cruz [River of the Cross], designated by its cruciform shape on the Freducci map, stated to be Jupiter Inlet by Dr. Cisco: “No other inlet on the coast has three branching streams at its head.” One could almost believe that it means Lake Okeechobee. The Cabo de Corrientes of Herrera is the Cabo de Setos [Cape of Pales] in Freducci. Abacoa was Abaida in Herrera, an Indian town near Lake Worth Inlet, according to Dr. Cisco. He identifies the Rio Salado [Salty River] with New River Inlet. Herrera in his account mentions two keys that are not on the Freducci map, Santa Marta and Pola. On the Freducci map are El Nirda and Canbei. One of the two Indian towns on the Keys, according to Fontaneda, was named Guaramunbe or Guaragumbe; perhaps all of these were what is now known as Matecumbe. Los Martires of both Herrera and Freducci, is a translation of the word Cuchiyaga of the Indians, as shown in Fontaneda’s Memoir; it thus alludes to Indian tribulations, not those of Spaniards, who had not yet discovered the New World when the name was first used. Ponce merely translated the name already found in use on the Keys, though Herrera said it was bestowed upon them by Ponce. Matanga is in both Herrera and Freducci, it alludes to the killing of some Indians by Ponce on his first journey and contributes to the evidence that this Freducci map was compiled from Ponce de León sources to some extent. The two West Coast names, Guchi and Stababa, are not identifiable from the Herrera records.

Chequiche is spelled Chequescha by Herrera, and this is the well known Indian town Tequesta, generally stated to have been situated on the Miami River, where it empties into the bay. Ponce may have stopped off to visit it on his way to the West Coast, as some authors report, but Herrera definitely stated that he arrived at this place on Sunday, July 2, 1513. This is the earliest mention of Miami, by its ancient Indian name. Miami thus becomes the first city on the continent of North America to have been definitely visited by Ponce, or by any other discoverer of note, and to have been identified by a substantiating map. The name Miami came from Mayaimi, equally as old at the name Tequesta. It was the Calusa name for Lake Okeechobee, meaning “big water.”

Herrera interpolated all these locations very much later from what, in his day, were modern charts. As far as they are used by themselves to verify Ponce’s landings, they are without value. They express Herrera’s opinion written nearly a century later.

Three compelling reasons for believing that Sebastian Cabot reported in 1512 of having rounded the Cape of Florida, either with his father on one of his two trips, or on an expedition of his own in 1508, as advanced by Williamson in his Voyages of the Cabots, are contained in this account by Peter Martyr. If Cabot had not known of Florida, he would not have been able to state that by following the coastline he “had the Island of Cuba on his left hand.” To know of currents counter to the Gulf Stream off the South
Florida shores before Ponce ever saw the country, took competent first hand information. This is a remarkable detail that too many Cabot historians overlook.

The third reason is the one to which the Freducci map makes another contribution. Cabot said that he sailed as far south as to be parallel with Fretum Herculeum [Strait of Gibraltar] and of returning from that latitude to England. On a modern map, this would be from the coast of North Carolina. So the Cabot experts state that Cabot sailed south to Carolina and returned from there, instead of realizing that 36º at his time was, on the charts and maps, in the Straits of Florida.

**Leonardo da Vinci Globe Gores, 1514**

The outlines of the New World in the da Vinci globe gores bear a resemblance to those found in the Lenox and the Jagellonicus globes (#314). The North American region is represented by two islands, one of which bears the name Bacalar, the other Terra Florida. South America, a large island, has conspicuously inscribed the name America, together with a few prominent coast names. The question, as to whether England or Spain may claim the priority in the discovery of Florida, has given rise to many contradictory statements. For the English, the honor has been claimed for Sebastian Cabot; and by the Spaniards, for Ponce de Leon. But, whatever may have been the southernmost point reached by Cabot in coasting America on his return, it is certain, that he did not land in Florida, and that the honor of first exploring that country is due to Juan Ponce de Leon. This cavalier, who was governor of Puerto Rico, induced by the vague traditions circulated by the natives of the West Indies, that there was a country in the north possessing a fountain whose water restored the aged to youth, made it an object of his ambition to discover this marvelous region. With this view, he resigned the governorship, and set sail with three caravels on the 3rd of March 1512. Steering NWN he came upon a country covered with flowers and verdure and, as the day of his discovery happened to be Palm Sunday, called by the Spaniards Pascua Florida, he gave it the name of Florida. He landed on the 2nd of April, and took possession of the country in the name of the King of Castile. (see monograph #327)

The Da Vinci map appears to be a preliminary sketch from which a global map was to have been made. A mere glance at the crude conventionalized box-effect labeled Terra Florida, shown as an island, discloses that Da Vinci had no detailed knowledge of
Ponce de Leon's voyage of 1513, such as we find on a map drawn at that time by Freducci. Da Vinci represents Florida, however, as a considerable landmass between Cuba and Zipangu [Japan], with Asia beyond.

**Schöner’s Globes**

True it is that the Spanish Government had been informed and believed, ever since the first expedition of John Cabot, that there was west of Cuba, a continent that stretched from a high point at the north to a very low point at the south. But it laid no claim to that country, which was then considered to be barren, and chiefly within the Portuguese line of demarcation. It is therefore only in Lusitanian charts and their Germanic derivatives, that in the first quarter of the 16th century we see the continental coast depicted, excepting always the *La Cosa* planisphere of 1500 (#305), which does not seem to have found imitators in Spain; and which, besides, depicts the northeast coast in a form entirely different from that of the *Ambassadors* globe gores and of the Weimar charts. And if the reader wishes to form an idea of the appearance of Spanish maps made between the voyage of Magellan and the exploration of the northeast coast by Gomez, he has only to examine the elaborate 1523 Turin map (#333.1) by Giovanni Vespucci, which ignores all lands north of Florida. (see monograph #328)
Reproduction of Schöner’s Timiripa Globe (a.k.a. the Ambassador’s Globe) from 1523 (Harrisse), showing Magellan’s route around South America and a substantial North American continent. The gores set forth a continuous coast line extending from La Florida to the Baccalaos.
Reproduction of Schöner’s 1533 “Weimar Globe” (from Harrisse) showing the “integration” of the new discoveries (America) with Asia and “Terra Florida”
The Johannes Schöner terrestrial manuscript globe, 1520: Zipango [Japan] and North America, showing the perceived proximity of Florida to Japan

The Pineda Chart, 1519

The earliest known map to correctly show the main outlines of the Gulf of Mexico is this manuscript sheet (43 x 22 cm) attached to a royal authorization of 1521 granting Francesco de Garay, Governor of Jamaica, the right to colonize the country between ‘Florida, formerly Bimini’ and Mexico. While it bears neither title nor name of maker, it is presumably the drawing sent to the King of Spain by Garay and constructed by Alonso Pineda and his pilots, who explored the northern coast of the Gulf for Garay. Pineda’s expedition demonstrated that there was no passage to the Pacific from the Gulf of Mexico (although the mysterious Darian Strait appeared on many maps of the period from Waldseemüller’s map of 1507 on, (see #310, 313, 319, 326, 328, 332); from Mexico southward the coast was already known.

The map is bordered on the north by Florida, on which is inscribed: La Florida que decian Bimini que descubrio Joan Ponce [Florida, said to be Bimini, which was discovered by Juan Ponce (de Leon)]. Thence the coast curves westward to a point where we read: Hasta aqui descubrio Joan Ponce [As far as this, extends the discovery of Juan Ponce - approximately present-day Apalachee Bay]; then to another bearing the inscription: Desede aqui comenco de descubrir Francesco de Garay [From here, Francesco de Garay commenced discovery - approximately present-day Appalachicola], and to the mouth of a wide river named Rio del Spiritu Santo, evidently one of the mouths of the Mississippi. From the latter the coastline assumes the shape of a semi-circle, extending to a large projecting peninsula that can only be the Yucatan peninsula, although nameless and absolutely connected with the mainland (a rather novel representation on a Spanish chart of 1519 since many cartographers preferred to misrepresent the Yucatan as an
island). The coast then continues westward as far as El Darian (present-day Panama). There is also a legend that must be noted, as it marks the limits of the discoveries accomplished in those regions, (in translation):

As far as this, westward, Francesco de Garay did discover, eastward, as far as the Cape de las higueras [of figs], which was discovered by the Pinzons and the priviledge to settle the country was granted to them.
The New World in this map shows a very accurate relationship and image of all of the aspects of the Caribbean Sea and especially the West Indies, Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, South America, Central America, Yucatan (as a peninsula), the Gulf of Mexico and there
is also a blank space. East of this blank space, in its proper relation to Cuba, is a fairly accurately shaped uncolored peninsula labeled \textit{Isla Florida} [Island of Florida] with only the lower portion drawn and nothing above it. If the date is correct (which it probably is not) this would be the first map to show the Florida peninsula properly labeled, shaped or positioned -- except for the \textit{Freducci} map (see description above) which is a manuscript portolan [nautical] chart. Tierra del Fuego and the Strait of Magellan are shown but not labeled so it was probably done after Juan Sebastian Del Cano’s return from the Magellan voyage around the world. The sources of the map information seem to be a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese and maybe other authentic sources. (see monograph #333.1)

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{map.png}
\caption{The Evolution of Florida on Early Maps}
\end{figure}

\textbf{Mexico City and the Gulf of Mexico, from Freidrich Peypus’ \textit{Praeclara de Nova maris Oceani Hyspania Narratio, 1524, Ferdinand Cortes}}

Oriented with West at the top and measuring 20 x 15 cm, this map of the Gulf of Mexico, found on the same page with a larger map of Mexico City, was published in Nuremberg by Peypus in 1524 with a Latin edition of the second letter of Hernán Cortés de Monroy y Pizarro, the Spanish conqueror and colonizer of Mexico. This second letter entitled \textit{Praeclara Fernandi. Cortesii de noua Maris Oceani Hispania Narratio} (originally written by Cortes in 1520) stated that he was given a drawing of the gulf coast by Montezuma himself. The northern shoreline (right side) with its Spanish names may have come from reports/charts supplied by members of Pineda’s expedition of 1519 whom Cortes ‘captured’ at Panuco. On this map at Panuco is the name \textit{Provincia Amichel} (top center), the name given by Garay to his proposed colony for which Pineda made his voyage. Following the shoreline northward, one can see at least hints of possible knowledge of both the Rio Grande and Mississippi or Mobile Rivers [Rio Panuco and Rio del Spiritu}
The Evolution of Florida on Early Maps

Santoj; additionally, the map shows La Florida, the first time the name was used on a printed map. Across the Gulf, to the south, Cortes’ conception of the Yucatan peninsula as an island on this map may have influenced many later cartographers who also displayed this misconception. (see monograph #334)

Detail: Gulf of Mexico with the Yucatan peninsula shown as an island, La Florida is on the lower left. (oriented with South at the top)
Vespucci world map, 1526, Juan [Giovanni] Vespucci

As can be seen here, Africa, southern Europe, and Asia Minor are well known, also the coasts of Florida, Mexico, Central America and northern South America. The Spanish reported little progress in the exploration of North America during the following two decades. Juan Ponce de Leon had been in Florida in 1513 searching for the legendary *Fountain of Youth*, gold, silver and slaves and had made an important contribution by describing the Gulf Stream. Freelance slave-raiding trips in the Bahamas and perhaps on the Florida coast were the main activities until 1520. In that year Lucas Vasquez Ayllón, prominent Santo Domingo leader, organized an expedition to explore lands thought to exist north of Florida. This map names the newly discovered country *Ayllón*. He sent out a ship under Francisco Gordillo that was joined by another under Pedro de Quexos. In June 1521 they landed at the mouth of a large river, which they named after St. John the Baptist. The two captains claimed the surrounding land for Spain and, against Ayllón’s orders, took 150 natives back to Santo Domingo to be sold as slaves. Quexos’s ship returned safely, but Gordillo’s was lost at sea. Diego Columbus headed a royal investigation that ordered the surviving Indians returned to their homeland and released. *(see monograph #338)*
Detail of the 1527 world map by Vesconte de Maiollo [Maggiolo]: North America with the mythical Sea of Verrazano and Terra Florida (#340)
The Paris Green Globe 1515-1528, showing North and South America, with the name “America” appearing four times (twice on each continent); note the multiple “passages” to Cipangu [Japan]. Florida is shown with a strong southeastern slant with a Spanish flag at its tip (#342.1)
On the Robert Thorne map of 1527, shown below, the Tropic of Cancer is shown cutting through the peninsula of Florida at the south side of Lake Okeechohee, too far north. The inclusion of this great lake on the Freducci map reflects the descriptions and geographic knowledge of his Indian guides, but the inclusion by Thorne indicates a general knowledge of it by that time among the cartographers in Spain.
There are two different maps of Florida, dated 1529, by Diego Ribero (#346). One is in the Grand Ducal Library at Weimar and the other is in the Vatican Library at Rome. A copy of this Vatican edition is known as the Second Borgian Map and is at the Museum of the Propaganda, Rome. They are very creditable in their portrayal of the Florida outline. On the Weimar copy we find Rio Salada, taken from the Foducci map. It is also found on the Wolfenbüttel map of about that time, in its correct position on the Florida east coast. 


The name *Rio de Canoas* also appears on some of these maps, but it is shown on the west coast, with *R. de la Paz*, which was named for Juan Paz. On the Vatican copy is the name *Rio de Stapana*. This name, like Fereducci's *Stababa*, refers to the chief of the Caloosa Indians in 1513, named by López de Velasco *Escampaba*. This Indian name then indicated Estero Bay, also named on these maps as the Bay of Ponce de León. *Ancon Baxo* was Anclote Harbor and *B. Honda* was Charlotte Harbor.

*A portion of the 1529 Weimar edition of the Ribero world map showing a well-defined Florida (#346)*

*The Ulpius globe, 1542, corrects many errors of preceding geographers, though not free from errors itself. For the first time the peninsula of Florida receives a proper location and the eastern shore of North America generally is rather well outlined (#367).*
A portion of the Chart of the Gulf of Mexico by Jean Rotz, 1540 #368

Dauphin map detail showing the Caribbean area, 1550, #378
A 1555 map of Florida from the Cosmographie Universelle by Guillaume Le Testu #378
A map of Alonso de Santa Cruz has often been called the "De Soto Map", for it portrays many of his stopping places. The first or most southern bay on the west coast is named on this map as the Bay of Juan Ponce, and the next is B. honda, which is wishfully called present Tampa Bay, instead of Charlotte Harbor. On his 1542 map at Stockholm, Santa Cruz has the same b. honda for his second bay, ancon baxo for the third and B. de Miruelo, or Apalache, for his fourth. This is actually an anonymous, undated, manuscript map and was made to exhibit the explorations of De Soto and Moscoso, 1539-1543. Twenty-one rivers are represented as emptying into the Gulf or the Atlantic. Among these is the R del espiritu Santo, which is either the Mississippi or the Mobile River. The large lake in the northeast may be the Okefenokee Swamp, in southern Georgia. Indian villages within the present United States are mapped for the first time. In the Texas region the inscription en estas, etc., may be translated “In these mountains there are silver mines”; and the longer inscription to the northward thereof, “From Quivira to this point there are numerous herds of cattle” — probably the first mention on a map of buffalo. This map marks an epoch in the history of the cartography of the United States, for it is the first graphic representation of any part of the interior of that country. It is housed in the “General Archive of the Indies” in Seville, Spain. Place names include Los martires florida and C. de canaveral.
A portion of the Harleian map of 1544 showing Florida again in close proximity to the mythical “Sea of Verrazano” similar to Vesconte de Maiollo [Maggiolo] map of 1527. The strait on this map carries the legend, Gofanto mer osto, which may be freely translated as “Gulf before [or leading to] the South Sea”. #382.1
This detail of La Florida is from the 1562 collaborative map by Diego Gutierrez, a Spanish cartographer from Casa de la Contratacion in Seville, and Hieronymous Cock, a noted engraver from Antwerp. The original map covers both North and South America, showing coastlines, rivers, cities, and mountains, and was printed on six sheets. Relief is shown pictorially on the map. (see monograph #400)
Universal Atlas, 1568-1571, Fernão Vaz Dourado

Map 11 in the Atlas: West Indies, Central and South America, up to the Amazon River. West of the Treaty of Tordesillas meridian extend exclusively Spanish territories in the central strip of the New World. Using the equator as a base, the image encompasses all of the southern areas of North America, with a special emphasis on Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the large region known today as Central America, “New Spain”, the Antilles and the ocean (Mare oceanum), along with the northern areas of South America, where the name Peru is placed close to Panama. The image repeats areas that were well known to and controlled by Spanish cartographers from the late 15th century onwards. #409.1
Joan Martines, Portolan Atlas, 1578: #7. West Indies, east coast of North America and north coast of South America, Central America, Mexico. Note that the shape of Florida is considerably less accurate than many maps that have proceeded it. #416
Skálholt Map, Sigurd Stefansson/Thord Thorláksson, 1590

This map the Norse settlements of Greenland [Gronlandia], Helleland, Resaland, Iceland [Island], the Western Settlement along with a strange amorphous landmass labeled “America Pars” and “Terra Florida” just west of England.
The *Skálholt Map*, shown here, was made in 1590 by Sigurd Stefánsson, a teacher in Skálholt, then an important religious and educational center on Iceland. Skálholt was, through eight centuries, one of the most important places in Iceland. From 1056 until 1785, it was one of Iceland’s two Episcopal Sees, along with Hólar, making it a cultural and political center. Iceland’s first official school, Skálholtsskóli (now Reykjavík Gymnasium, MR), was founded at Skálholt in 1056 to educate clergy. Stefánsson attempted to plot the American locations mentioned in the *Vinland Saga* on a map of the North Atlantic. Stefánsson’s original is lost; this copy dates from 1669, and was included in the description of Iceland by Biørn Jansen of Skarsaa. (see monograph #431.6)

*La Florida, Abraham Ortelius-Geronimo de Chiaves, Antwerp, 1584* one of the early maps devoted entirely to Florida. The red-colored settlements reflect the Indian settlements first reported by members of the De Soto expedition.
This is a detail from the map drawn of Florida in 1584 by Chiaves and included in Ortelius’ Atlas. The area shown extends across the present-day Florida panhandle and peninsula, with relief shown pictorially. The map shows coastlines, rivers, and settlements. Tampa Bay is shown here as *Briya de Spo Santo*. 
Le Moyne’s map includes the peninsula of Florida and the surrounding regions from the northern part of Cuba to Prom Terra falg or Cape Lookout. The map was included in De Bry’s *Brevis Narratio Eorum Quae in Florida Americae Provincia*. Jacques le Moyne was an artist who accompanied Laudonniere to Florida in 1564. Le Moyne prepared this map, along with drawings and a narrative account. De Bry first attempted to obtain the information from Le Moyne in London in 1587, but Le Moyne, who was then working for Sir Walter Raleigh, refused to part with them. After Le Moyne’s death in 1588, De Bry acquired his work from Le Moyne’s widow and published them in 1591. W.P. Cumming surmised that the manuscript map was the source of not only this map, but was also used by John White in making the southern part of his *La Virgenia Pars*.

The map was a landmark for the region, containing significant new information (often inaccurate) that became a primary source for other maps for the next 150 years. It was Le Moyne’s misfortune to have many of his errors incorporated and even exaggerated in Mercator’s map of 1606, upon which for half a century much of the subsequent cartography of the region was based. Le Moyne’s coastline is usually correct for latitude, but the shore extends too far east rather than northeast in direction.

The sea shown at the top is probably *Verrazano’s Sea*. Le Moyne added several lakes which endured in mythological proportions in the later cartography of the Southeast. In the peninsula of Florida has a lake with an island called *Sarrop*, which
probably represents Lake Okeechobee. North of Sarrop is a larger lake which may represent Lake George and, over time, became the great inland lake of the Southeast. Le Moyne locates it slightly southeast of the mouth of the May River [St. Johns River] into which it flows. He calls it *Lacus aquae dulcis* [fresh water lake] and says that it is so large that from one bank it is impossible to see the other side. To the north of the lake, among the *montes Apalatci* [Appalachian Mountains] is another large lake, fed by an enormous waterfall. This waterfall may have been inspired by tales of waterfalls in western North Carolina; but it is more likely to depict the legends heard from Indians of the great falls of Niagara. Below this lake is written *In hoc lacu Indigenae argenti grana inveniunt* [In this lake the natives find grains of silver]. #431
Corneille Wytfliet’s *Florida et Apalche*, 1597

A map of Florida and the southeast coast of North America, taken from from Wytfliet’s *Descriptiones Ptolemaicae Augmentum, sive Occidentis Notitia Brevi Commentario.* (Louvain, Tijpis Iohannis Bogardi, 1597), the first atlas of America which contained 19 maps of North America. the map shows the area extending from Cuba to North Carolina (21º-41º N; 287º-308º W).

Wyfliet’s map is one of the earliest to focus on the southeast and to name “Florida”. It is the second earliest regional map (after the smaller map by Ortelius) to focus on the region. The map is drawn from Geronimo de Chaves’ map, which was copied by Ortelius in 1584. Wytfliet expands the coverage to include more of the Gulf Coast, as well as extending the map north to the Outer Banks of North Carolina and south to Cuba. The inland details are derived from the reports of Hernando de Soto, during his explorations of 1539-42, making it one of the few 16th century maps of North America to include significant inland detail from first hand European Accounts. The Florida peninsula is altered in shape from Ortelius, in that it is more rectangular and has a pronounced ‘neck.’ The source of this delineation appears to be unknown. The *Rio del Spirito Santo* shown here is the Mississippi River. The country north and east of the great River Seco, which flows in a southeasterly direction from the upper limit of the Florida peninsula, is called *Apalche*. The Seco and Sola Rivers join each other to form a great
island as on the Ortelius-Chaves map of 1584. The Florida peninsula itself, which is not given a name, has a rectangular shape, with a bottle-neck top, unlike the more V-shaped outline in many of the earlier maps. (see monograph #401)

Place names include B. de S. Spirito [Tampa Bay], Cap. De Canaveral
Jean Matal’s 1602 map: Florida et Apalche, very similar to Wytfliet’s delineation
Father Matteo Ricci’s 1602 world map Kunyu Wanguo Quantu 坤輿萬國全圖

Detail: The map identifies Florida as Huādì (花地), the “Land of Flowers.” #441
Florida et regions vicinae by De Laet, 1625
Here the Florida peninsula is called “Tegesta Provinc.,” one of the earliest appearance of this name on a map. “Tegesta” for the Florida appears on numerous subsequent maps.
On this eastern portion Nicolas Sanson introduces the interesting concept of *Floride François*. This territory, comprising much of modern day South Carolina and Georgia, is a French claim that dates to a 1562 - 1565 French attempt, under Jean Ribault (1520 – October 12, 1565) to colonize Florida. The French established two settlements, made several hundred gallons of wine, nearly died of starvation, and were ultimately whipped out by a Spanish fleet commanded by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. Menendez
went on to found St. Augustine, the oldest continuously occupied European established settlement within the contiguous borders of the Untied States. Although the French made no further attempts to establish a colony on the North America’s southeast coast, Sanson is clearly using his cartographic influence to advocate for a great French empire in North America. In the following year Sanson used the Florida section of the map for a special treatment on nearly the same scale, which in turn became a type map for the region. *Floride Francoise* on these two maps is probably found for the first time to designate the Georgia-South Carolina area as part of the French possessions in the New World, though earlier maps, such as Lescarbot’s 1611, refer to French settlements there.

Within the boundaries of *Floride Francoise* the cartographer identifies to large inland lakes. These apocryphal lakes make their first appearance on the De Bry/Le Moyne map of 1591 (#393.1). The largest of these is represented as the source of the River May. In that chart Le Moyne correctly mapped the River May [St. John’s River] in an inverted ‘V’ form, first heading north, then south to meet with a large inland lake (in all likely hood Lake George or one of the other great inland lakes of Florida). Hondius on the other hand maps the course of the May heading to the northwest, thus relocating the Lacus Aaque Dulcis, the larger of the two lakes shown here, far to the north. This error can be understood in terms of magnetic variation, temperature issues associated with isothermal lines, and navigational errors related to the confusion of the star Asfick with Polaris. While Le Moyne correctly located the mouth of the River May at 30°N, Hondius maps it between 31°N and 32°N. This led to a mis-association of the River May with the Savannah River. Thus, while the real River May dips southward, the Savannah River heads almost directly northwest into the Appalachian Mountains, forming the modern southern border of South Carolina. Hondius, no doubt taking his cue from navigators who rarely trekked inland, therefore rerouted the River May to flow from the northwest. Without an accurate picture if the interior, Hondius followed Le Moyne’s example and trans-located the great freshwater lake to the north. Others have speculated that the Le Moyne’s River May is in fact the St. John’s River, and that the Lacus Aaque Dulcis, is in fact the Okefenokee Swamp - however, this argument runs counter most scholarship. The influence of the Mercator-Hondius firm was so pronounced in Europe that most subsequent cartographers, including as we see here, Sanson, followed their lead. #474
Pierre d’Abbeville du Val, 1665, the Florida peninsula is labeled as “Tegeste” and St Augustine is represented with a graphic.
La Florida, 1680, obviously covering an extensive area of the present-day southeastern United States with the Florida peninsula called “Tegesta Prov.”
Floride by A.M. Mallet, 1683
Florida was first discovered by the English, under the Conduct of Sebastian Cabot, 1479. Afterwards, farther searched into by John Deony a Spaniard, who took Possession of it in the name of that King 1527, by him called Florida: Its Coast is on the Gulph of Mexico, which flows on its South; it extends it self now from the River Palmas, which bounds it on the Province of Panuco, in New Spain, unto Bay Saint Matheo, on Mar del Norte between this Gulph and the Sea.

Florida stretches out a Peninsula towards the South, where the Cape of Florida is not distant from the Island Cuba, above thirty five or forty Leagues. Others only give the name of Florida, to the Peninsula of
A portion of Vincenzo Maria Coronelli’s 1690 map America Settentrionale Colle Nuove Scoperte Sin All Anno. “Florida” is depicted as the larger area of the southeast and “Tegest Provincia” as the name of the peninsula. Place Names include St Augustine, Cape Canaveral, Port St Lucia and Tampa Bay (see monograph #488)
The Evolution of Florida on Early Maps

1707 map of Florida by Pieter van der Aa. The label of “Florida” stretches across the entire south, past the Mississippi and the peninsular area which, again, is called “Tegesta Prov”.

Scheeps Togt van Jamaica by Pieter van der Aa, Leyden, 1714
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Les Costes Aux Environs De La Riviere De Missipi Decouvertes par Mr. De la Salle en 1683, et reconnues par Mr. Le Chevalier d’Iberville en 1698 et 1699 ... 1705

De vaste kust van Chicora tussen Florida en Virginie, 1706
This detail is from the 1718 DeLisle map titled *Carte de la Louisiane et du cours du Mississippi* [i.e. Mississippi]: dressee sur un grand nombre de memoires entrruies sur ceux de Mr. le Maire / par Guillaume Del’isle del Academie R’le. des Sciences, and published by Chez l’auteur le Sr. Delisle sur le quay de l’horloge avec privilege du roy. Here Florida is portrayed as an archipelago. The map represents the travels of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in Florida and the southeast in 1539–1542, Alonso de Leon in 1689, and French Canadian explorer Saint Denis in 1713 and 1716, among others. De l’Isle accurately identified the location of many Native American tribes, marked by a small hut symbol and a name. This map shows the *Baye du S. Esprit*, or Tampa Bay, extending eastward to the Atlantic Ocean. Additionally, the Caloosa (Les Carlos) natives at the southern tip of Florida are labeled as cannibals (Antropophages). This was the first printed map to show the route of Hernando de Soto in 1539-40 from his disembarkment on the Gulf Coast northward. The map shows coastlines, major rivers, and European and Native American settlements. Place names include Pensacola, Cape Canaveral, Tampa and St Augustine, but, Surprisingly, there is no representation of the St Johns River.
In his delineation of the Spanish territory of Florida, Homann shows it occupying primarily the Southeast (a variant issue of the map indicates a much more extensive northern boundary, i.e., reaching as far north as the Appalachians.)” The Baye du S. Espirit [Bay of the Holy Ghost - Tampa Bay], which is shown as extending across the Florida peninsula to the Atlantic, and the location of the Carlos Maneaters at the southern tip of the peninsula. Again, the label of “Florida” extended beyond just the peninsular area. see monograph #520
A portion of Henry Popple’s, 1733 map: A Map of the British Empire in America with the French and Spanish Settlements adjacent thereto by Hen. Popple depicting Florida in the old triangular outline, but a reasonable representation of the St Johns River. See monograph #531
Florida: the north part of the Gulf of Mexico with the adjacent territories belonging to Great Britain and to France, 1736. Place names include Fort St Augustine, Bay del Spirito Sancto [Tampa Bay], St Johns River and Pensacola.
A portion of Bernard’s map showing Florida as it was known in 1737. This map shows the longitude based on the Meridian of Charles Town (Charlestown) South Carolina, and the northern and southern bounds of Carolina encompassing Georgia and a large portion of Florida. Population estimates of various Native American nations is given, including an unexplainable note that peninsular Florida is uninhabited.
This map detail is a 1742 map by Antonio de Arredondo, depicting land claim disputes between Spain and England. The extended title of the map is “Descripción Geográfica, de la parte que los Españoles poseen Actualmente en el Continente de la Florida, del Del Dominio en que estan los Yngleses con legitimo título solo en Virtud del Tratado de pases del año de 1670 y de la Jurisdicion que indevidamente an Ocupado despues de d[i]chó Tratado, en que se Manifiestan las Tierras que Usurpan....”; The map shows the Spanish territory as defined by a treaty made in 1670, including coastlines, European and Native American settlements and forts, and pictorial representation of mountain ranges. A red colored line in the map indicates the route of Hernando De Soto’s 16th century entrada from the west coast of Florida into the Southeastern part of the United States.
A portion of the Richard Seale 1744: Map of North America With the European Settlements & whatever else is remarkable in ye West indies, from the latest and best Observations showing a poor triangular outline of the Florida peninsula with an obvious St Johns River. #531
Detail from the 1744 map “Carte de la Louisiane cours du Mississipi [i.e. Mississippi] et pays voisins : dedie M. le Comte de Maurepas, ministre et secretaire d'etat commandeur des ordres du roy / par N. Bellin ingenieur de la marine, 1744 ; Dheulland sculpe”; showing Presquisle de la Floride (the Florida peninsula), the Atlantic coastline and Gulf Coast from near Baye de Carlos (Charlotte Harbor) to the Mississippi Delta. Major rivers, including R. S. Jean [St. Johns River] and R. des Apalachicolis (Apalachicola River) are shown. European and Native American settlements including Tampa, St. Augustine, and St. Marks are shown. Relief is shown pictorially, and longitude is based on the Paris prime meridian.
Florida as displayed on Thomas Bowles 1755 map:
The British & French Dominions in North America, note that the southern portion of the peninsula is missing, the “Spirito Santo Bay” [Tampa Bay] is mis-placed and shown stretching across the entire southern portion of the peninsula. The St Johns River is represented, as is St Augustine, Cape Canaveral and Pensacola Bay.
A New and Accurate Map of East & West Florida by Thomas Kitchin, 1765
The Florida peninsula is depicted as a severely dissected landmass made up of many large islands

This map of Florida published just after its acquisition from Spain by Great Britain at the end of the French and Indian War, and its division into two Governments, East and West. Like Kitchin’s map above, it shows the Florida peninsula as essentially an archipelago. At the lower left corner is an inset “Plan of the Harbour and Settlement of Pensacola,” then the capital of West Florida which extends all the way to the Mississippi River. Place names include: Pensacola, Saint Augustine, Cape Canaveral, Tampa, St. Josephs Bay, Espiritu Santo Bay [Tampa Bay] and Key Biscayne.
As can be see in these foregoing examples, the outline of Florida did gradually improve in accuracy, although the progress was not very linear. Due to the fact that the early explorers were seeking “treasure” in terms of gold, silver, the spices of the Far East, etc. and the fact that the indigenous people of Florida were not particularly welcoming to these Europeans, the interior Florida was not extensively explored and mapped because their efforts were diverted to more promising, unexplored areas of the continent. The early explorers found none of the expected “treasure” in Florida and thus moved on to other areas. Exploring Florida’s interior meant dealing with exotic creatures like alligators and panthers, extensive swampy wetlands, mosquitoes and hostile inhabitants.

Florida also went through several European attempts at controlling the territory. While Spain predominated, both the French and British attempted to replace the Spanish occupants.
East Florida, from surveys made since the last peace, adapted to Dr. Stork’s History of that country, 1764. Place names include: West Florida, Pensacola, St. Johns River, Saint Augustine, Tampa Bay, Bay of Espiritu Santo, Key West.
This is a map of Florida divided into West and East Florida, circa 1794. It is a portion of the map of the Southern Dominions belonging to the United States of America. It shows country borders, cities and towns such as St. Augustine, railroads, and inland waters such as Lake Mayaco or Lake Okeechobee. Place names include: Gulf of Florida, St. Augustin, Saint Augustine, Pensacola, Tampa Bay, Bay of Espiritu Santo, Cape Canaveral, Fort Picolata, Lake George, Lake Mayaco, Lake Okeechobee, Cape Sable, Chatham Bay formerly Bay of Juan Ponce de Leon. Again the territory extends west to the Mississippi River.
A detail of the 1816 map entitled “Map of the United States of America : with the contiguous British and Spanish possessions / compiled from the latest & best authorities by John Melish” showing the Spanish territory of Florida. This map shows coastal features, major lakes, rivers, and settlements. Place names include: Santa Rosa Island, Deer Fort, Oyster Cove, Apalachicola River, St. Marks, St. Marys, Talbot Island, St. Augustine, Saint Augustine, Appalachee Bay, Apalachee Bay, Cape St. Blas, Cape San Blas, Cape Canaveral, Spiritu Santo Bay, Tampa Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Mayaco Lake, Lake Okeechobee, Chatham Bay, Cape Sable, Newcastle Key, Key West, West Key, Dry Tortugas
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Recommended References:
The monographs referenced by # on my website: www.myoldmas.com - Late Medieval and Renaissance Maps

Maps Presented Herein:
• The Albertin de Virga map, 1414, #240
• The Vinland Map, 1440 #243
• The Genoese Map, 1457 #248
• Paolo Toscanelli, 1457 #252
• Fra Mauro, 1459 #249
• Henricus Martellus (#256)
• The Cantino map of 1502, #306
• The Caveri/Canerio Map, 1502-06, #307
• The 1507 Waldseemüller Map, #310
• Johannes Ruysch’s 1508 map, #313
• Novus Orbis, 1511, Peter Martyr
• The Freducci Map of 1515
• Leonardo da Vinci Globe Gores, 1514, #327
• Schöner’s Globes, #328
• The Pineda Chart, 1519, #332
• Geocarta Nautica Universale, 1523, Giovanni [Juan] Vespucci, #333.1
• Mexico City and the Gulf of Mexico, from Freidrich Peypus’ Praeclara de Nova maris Oceani Hyspania Narratio,1524, Ferdinand Cortes, #334
• Vespucci world map, 1526, Juan [Giovanni] Vespucci, #338
• 1527 world map by Vesconte de Maiollo [Maggiolo], #340
• The Paris Green Globe 1515-1528, #342.1
• The Paris Gilt or De Bure Globe, 1527, #334
• The 1529 Weimar edition of the Ribero world map, #346
• The Ulpius globe, 1542, #367
• Chart of the Gulf of Mexico by Jean Rotz, 1540, #368
• The Dauphin map, 1550, #378
• A 1555 map of Florida from the Cosmographie Universelle by Guillaume Le Testu, #378
• DeSoto Map, Mapas de Mexico y Florida, 1544
• The Harleian map, 1544, #382.1
• Diego Gutierrez’s 1562 map, #400
• Universal Atlas, 1568-1571, Fernão Vaz Dourado, #409.1
• Joan Martines, Portolan Atlas, 1578, #416
• Skálholt Map, Sigurd Stefansson/Thord Thorláksson, 1590, #431.6
• La Florida, Abraham Ortelius-Gerinimo de Chiaves, 1584
• Floridae Americae Provincia Recens & Exactissima, Jacques Le Moyne, 1591, #431
• Corneille Wytfliet’s *Florida et Apalche*, 1597, #401
• Jean Mata’s 1602 map: *Florida et Apalche*
• Father Matteo Ricci’s 1602 world map *Kunyu Wanguo Quantu*, #441
• *Florida et regions vicinae* by De Laet, 1625
• Nicolas Sanson’s 1656 map: *Le Nouveau Mexique et La Floride*, #474
• *Florida*, Pierre d’Abbeville du Val, 1665
• *La Florida*, 1680
• *Floride* by A.M. Mallet, 1683
• *A Map of Florida and the Great Lakes of Canada* by Robert Morden, 1688
• Vincenzo Maria Coronelli’s 1690 map *America Settentrionale Colle Nuove Scoperte Sin All Anno*, #488
• 1707 map of Florida by Pieter van der Aa.
• *Scheeps Togt van Iamaica* by Pieter van der Aa, Leyden, 1714
• *Les Costes Aux Environs De La Riviere De Missisipi Decouvertes par Mr. De la Salle en 1683, et reconnues par Mr. Le Chevallier d’Iberville en 1698 et 1699 . . . 1705*
• *De vaste kust van Chicora tussen Florida en Virginie*, 1706
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