

Title: Contarini/Roselli World Map

Date: 1506

Authors: Giovanni Matteo Contarini & Francesco Roselli

Description: Since the early 1490s, when Rosselli's world map showing the rounding of southern Africa was printed, there had been a decade and a half of the most far-ranging explorations. Some findings from these exciting discoveries had been recorded on vellum *portolan* [nautical] charts of which only a few survive today, such as the chart by Juan de la Cosa (#305) attributed to 1500, the *Cantino* world map of c.1502 (#306), and the 1504 *Kuntsmann I* (#307.2). No printed maps of this era depict any of the new explorations until the years 1506-1507 when three original world maps independently appeared. These are the great world maps of Contarini-Rosselli, Johann Ruysch (#313), and Martin Waldseemüller (#310).

The authors and date of this map are documented in a notation, lower right. *"Made known by the industry of Giovanni MaKeo Contarini and ingenuity of Francesco Roselli, of Florence, in 1506."* The authors summarize the information depicted on the map within another entry, far left: *"The world and all its seas on a flat map, Europe, Lybia (sic), Asia, and the Antipodes, the poles and zones and sites of places, the parallels, for the climes of the mighty globe, Lo! Giovanni MaKeo Contarini, famed in Ptolemaean art, has compiled, and marked out."* A full presentation of all the legends and place-names on this map are provided by Mr. F. P. Sprent, Keeper and Superintendent of the Map Room, British Museum (1924). All translations from the map in this paper are his.

This world map designed by Giovanni Matteo Contarini and engraved by Francesco Rosselli was first discovered in 1922 and is now in the British Library. The map is an elegant copper engraving on a fan-shaped or coniform projection and was printed in either Venice or Florence. The date of the map (1506) and the names of the designer and engraver are indicated in a Latin inscription just east of the Cape of Good Hope. This is the oldest known printed map to show America. The copy in the British Library is the only one known impression to have survived. Contarini used a novel conical or coniform projection, spreading the world in a fan shape to add information of new lands brought back by the first overseas explorers. The Contarini map appeared during the first decade of the 16th century when the results of Columbus' voyages to the west and Vasco da Gama's to the east were beginning to be recorded on maps. Accommodating all of these new discoveries was the challenge and dilemma of cartographers, and Contarini resolved it well. This world map represents the earliest attempt to bring the Far East and Far West into relationship to one another. Most maps of the period such as those of Caveri (#307) and Waldseemüller (#310) show the eastern and western discoveries at the extreme right and extreme left and make no attempt to indicate their connection with respect to a spherical earth.

The mapmaker Giovanni Matteo Contarini, about whom little is known, was probably a member of the distinguished Contarini family of Venice. What appears on this map is an inscription reading: *"The geography of Ptolemy to 180 degrees with the addition of the other hemisphere in the same order also on a plane of 180 degrees, and if by folding together the two sets of degrees you form them into a circle you will perceive the whole spherical world combined into 360 degrees. Made known by the industry of Giovanni Matteo Contarini and by the art and ingenuity of Francesco Roselli, of Florence, in 1506."* Stated another way, and with some manipulation, the map's information could be transformed into a north polar projection. Despite the fact that on the map he refers to himself as famed in the

Ptolemaean art, no other maps or charts by him have been discovered. The engraver, Francesco Rosselli, had been in the map trade since the early 1490's when he engraved the *Martellus* world map (#256).

While the map seems puzzling at first, a closer look reveals the shape of the world as widely imagined by Europeans at the time of its publication. The three active European maritime nations: Spain, Portugal and England, represented by Columbus, the Corte-Reals (Gaspar and Miguel) and Cabot, all presumed that the new lands discovered in the West Indies and North America were in and around an extreme easterly promontory of the Asian continent, the province of *Tangut*, another place-name from Marco Polo. This is just how these lands appear on Contarini's map.

Off the eastern tip of the promontory located in the top center-left of the map an inscription refers to the discovery of Newfoundland by the Portuguese, a reference to the Corte-Real expeditions in 1500 and 1501. The legend at the West Indies reads: *the islands that Master Christopher Columbus discovered at the instance of the most serene King of Spain*. As no coastline west of Cuba is marked, Contarini either was unaware of or chose to ignore Vespucci's alleged voyage to Florida in 1497 and Cabot's possible southern explorations on his second voyage of 1498.

The map shows the antipodal continent soon to receive the name *America* and also, in the north, the eastward projection similar to the one on La Cosa's map (#305), that we surmised was based on a Cabot prototype. However, there is no suggestion of a geographical proximity of this projection to the West Indies. It is shown as a part of Asia identified as Marco Polo's province of *Tangut*. The map does, however, show a striking proximity of this projection to northern Scandinavia, and the sea between is almost bridged by chains of islands. Contarini made no attempt to associate this land with English discoveries, and a scroll beneath it attributes it to Portuguese sailors. This has frequently been assumed to refer to the Corte Reals. But there is no resemblance whatsoever between the land shown here and the survey of Newfoundland on the Cantino map and later maps. The Portuguese referred to in this scroll could just as well be those in the Müntzer letter of 1493, who presumably accompanied Pining and Pothurst. In fact, the same piece of land reported by La Cosa and Contarini was in one case attributed to the English (by La Cosa) with no mention of the Portuguese and the other time attributed to the Portuguese (by Contarini) with no mention of the English. Such a discrepancy seems uncharacteristic of any actual geographical discovery, but it may be characteristic of a paper map claiming to show a reality yet to be (re-)discovered. Such a map as this, preexisting, would explain nicely the theory of Cabot, who expressed in his patent of 1496 that he did not need to enter the southern seas in order to reach the lands of Marco Polo.

Let us look closely at the geographical qualifications of this unknown piece of land as drawn by Contarini and compare them with La Cosa's map. At the southeastern extremity of this projection there is a significant peninsula. It appears at the same place in La Cosa, although there it is less protrusive. Between this peninsula and La Cosa's map's northern edge, where his map runs off the page (perhaps from trimming), La Cosa shows a single promontory flanked by two bays. An analogous promontory, rounded and less defined by invaginated bays, is present in Contarini's rendition. Contarini then shows an ocean to the north of his representation of the projection. The immediate southern coastlines on both maps are similar and have few major features.

It may be that La Cosa and Contarini were dealing with the same piece of land, but there are enough dissimilarities to rule out their working from identical prototypes

or, alternatively, to show that their prototype was in a form that allowed room for individual interpretation. In addition to their dissimilarities of emphasis on coastline features, they differ totally on their emphasis of interior features. The only internal features Contarini shows are a few mountains and a river flowing through his peninsula. La Cosa shows none of these but dots the interior of his land with myriad lakes. Perhaps the most striking dissimilarity is in the overall orientation of the land. Contarini's east-facing promontories form a line oriented rather northeast-southwest, but La Cosa's are nearly north-south. Contarini's northern coastline follows so closely, almost stylistically, along a circle of latitude that one suspects that it might have been surmised. Perhaps the whole question of orientation was ambiguous in the prototype. Could it be that a different orientation from either La Cosa or Contarini would lead to a valid identification of the land?

If Contarini's land is detached from its base in Asia and rotated 90° counterclockwise, the upper coastline becomes a western coastline oriented north-south and the eastern promontories become northern promontories. According to James Enterline there is exactly one plausible subject in the New World that fits these conditions, exactly one piece of land that has a western coastline and northern promontories. That is the Quebec peninsula.

Rotation of a map to secure identification is one of the methods most frowned upon by the historical cartography establishment. It is immediately apparent that the general shape of Contarini's and La Cosa's land bears no resemblance to that of the Quebec peninsula. The characteristic wedge shape is missing, regardless of the orientation. Contarini's northeastern-most promontory compares very well with the northwestern promontory of the Quebec peninsula in the Wolstenholme area. His southeastern-most peninsula, with its dual rivers, compares slightly less well with Quebec's Cape Chidley promontory east of Ungava Bay, with its Korok and George Rivers. At this point, La Cosa's version of the peninsula seems to be a better representation of the rather sharp Cape Chidley promontory. Between the southeastern and northeastern corners of their maps, both La Cosa and Contarini show a central promontory. This corresponds to the Cape Hope's Advance promontory on the west side of Ungava Bay. Contarini's northern shoreline contains two less-pronounced swollen protrusions, and these would correspond to the Portland promontory and Cape Jones promontory along Hudson Bay and James Bay.

Although the map shows some similarities with several early Portuguese manuscripts, it does not follow any of them closely. Contarini either synthesized a number of sources or employed a composite map that has not survived. His American place-names are also on the *La Cosa*, *Cantino*, and *Caveri* manuscript maps, and he also included information found on each of them.

This cartographic treasure, unknown to scholarship until its discovery in 1922, gives a true reflection of cosmographical thought at the time Columbus' career was coming to a close. Perhaps its most charming feature is the legend off the east coast of Asia indicating that Contarini, along with Columbus in 1506, the year of the Admiral's death, believed that the great explorer had reached the coast of Asia. It reads:

Christopher Columbus, Viceroy of Spain, sailing westward reached the Spanish islands after many hardships and dangers. Weighing anchor thence he sailed to the province called Ciamba [the "Champa" of Marco Polo, known today as Vietnam]. Afterwards he betook himself to this place which, as Christopher himself, that most diligent investigator of maritime things, asserts, holds great store of gold.

To the south, present-day South America is separated from North America by a wide strait but its northern coast is plotted in detail, based on the discoveries of Columbus in 1498 and Amerigo Vespucci in 1499-1500. To the southwest and southeast undiscovered land extends to the map's limits.

The Contarini map, of which but one tattered and incomplete copy still exists, is bold with respect to the depiction of South America. Down to around 23°S, the eastern coast of Brazil is depicted tending south. From there the coast turns abruptly southeast where it runs until around 37° S, beyond which the remnant copy is incomplete. The western coast of South America is also depicted, not obscured by cartouches or inscriptions like on the Ruysch map (#313). This coast tends southwest until around 50°S when it abruptly turns west, tending very slightly to the south. This is a rather more significant difference between Contarini and Ruysch (or other peers) than most scholars have made out. Contarini's South American landmass is unambiguously huge. It is depicted with coasts tending southeast and southwest into the unknown south. The most frustrating thing about the map is that the extant copy of the map is in poor condition—in particular, the edges to the bottom and left-hand side of the map have torn away. The map-proper only extends to 50° S, but Contarini continues his depiction of geographies beyond this border, into the decorative frill. So the question that gives rise to tantalizing possibilities is this: if the bottom of the map had not been lost, thus obscuring the cartography from around 37° S, how far and in what direction would the eastern coast of South America be found to extend (the same goes for the western coast)? The answer is suggested by the presence of a cartouche to the right of the South American coast. In translation it states: "*This is that land named Santa Cruz which was lately [discovered] by the most noble lord Pedro Alvares [Cabral] of the illustrious stock of the most serene King of Portugal in 1499*". Based on the position of this inscription so far east and south of the established Brazilian coast, it most likely refers to a coast running beneath the inscription that is connected to the South American mainland.

In another inscription, Contarini expresses his belief that Columbus found a passage to Cathay, indicating that he was trying to reconcile new discoveries with established geographic and cosmographic knowledge. If Contarini interpreted Columbus's discoveries through the lens of geographical lore, it prompts the question, did he do likewise with Cabral and Vespucci and other explorers' discoveries in South America? In particular, in depicting South America does Contarini incorporate into his cosmographic reckoning the geographical lore of the *Antipodes*? While it cannot be known for sure, but according to Avan Stallard in his book on the *Antipodes*, there is good reason to think he does, based on the inscription Contarini placed to the left of South America: "*The world and all its seas on a flat map, Europe, Lybia, Asia, and the Antipodes ...*"

According to Stallard, the reason Contarini's South American continent is much larger than any cartographer before him had depicted it is because he seems to be joining together—as one continent—the discovered coasts of Brazil with the idea of antipodal lands running across the southern latitudes of the hemisphere. If this is the case, Contarini joins the ranks of cosmographers who in the early years of the 16th century subscribed to the notion of the mega-continent: the idea that South America was connected to a sprawling southern hemispheric continent, and then, in some imaginings, with North America and then North America to both Asia and Europe. It would also make Contarini's map the first rendering of the southern continent which extends about

the Antarctic region. It will never be known beyond the shadow of a doubt if Contarini had in mind this grand cosmography, but others have left no doubt that they did.

Fifty degrees of longitude east of Asia, and on the Tropic of Cancer, appears *Zimpangu*, [Japan] which is stated to be identical with Hispaniola. Between *Zimpangu* and the west African coast, the discoveries of Columbus and the Spaniards are inserted, the group of islands, *Terra de Cuba*, *Insula Hispaniola*, etc., with no suggestion of a North American continent, and the northeast coast of South America as discovered by Columbus on his third voyage and his Spanish successors. The representation here of *Terra S. Crucis* [Land of the Holy Cross] shows Spanish influences, and most historians do not consider that the *Cantino* chart (#306) was a direct source. The inscription off the southeast coast reads (in translation): *This is that land named Santa Cruz which was lately [discovered] by the most noble lord Pedro Alvares of the illustrious stock of the most serene King of Portugal in 1499*. This landmass ends abruptly at the border of the map, the *Antipodean* region.

The inscription on the Caribbean Sea: *The whole of this sea is fresh water*, must have originated in the story of the discovery by Columbus on his third voyage of a current of fresh water off the mouth of the Orinoco River. On the north coast of South America, which Columbus called the "*Pearl Coast*," is the legend: *This is the gulf in which the Spaniards found very many pearls, and along this coast lions, swine, stags, and other kinds of animals*. An interesting feature is that a conventional western coastline has been given to this southern landmass. Perhaps this is intended to be the *Antipodean* continent suggested in the verses quoted below.



The Trustees of the British Museum, who published it in facsimile in 1924, purchased the only known copy of this map in 1922. The date of the map and the names of the author and engraver are found in the Latin inscription, east of the Cape of Good Hope, which has been translated as follows:

The geography of Ptolemy to 180 degrees with the addition of the other hemisphere in the same order also on a plane of 180 degrees, and if by folding together the two sets of degrees you form them into a circle you will perceive the whole spherical world combined into 360 degrees. Made known by the industry of Giovanni Matteo Contarini and by the art and ingenuity of Francesco Roselli, of Florence, in 1506.

The name of Contarini as the author of the map also appears in the inscription near the bottom of the map:

The world and all its seas on a flat map, Europe, Lybia, Asia, and the Antipodes, the poles and zones and sites of places, the parallels for the climes of the mighty globe, lo! Giovanni Matteo Contarini, famed in the Ptolemæan art, has compiled and marked out. Whither away? Stay, traveler, and behold new nations and a new-found world.

Whether the map was printed in Venice or Florence is uncertain, but probably in the former city, as the latter is not marked on the map; however, Mr. Heawood judges from the watermark that the paper was made in Florence. The map measures 17 x 25 inches (42 x 63 cm).

In its coniform projection and the extension of Asia to the northeast, the map resembles that of the *Ruysch* map published two years later (#313). It was evidently based on that by Ptolemy (#119). There is the same large peninsula (i.e., the *Tiger-leg* or *Dragon's Tail*) to the southeast of Asia without the latter's *Terra Incognita* to the south.

The omission of a coastline to the west of *Terra de Cuba* has a double significance. It would seem to indicate that Contarini knew nothing of the alleged voyage made by Vespucci in 1497 along the eastern coast of North America, and that in 1506, the date of the death of Columbus, Contarini shared the current belief that the great explorer had reached the coast of Asia. Further evidence of this is found in the previously cited inscription off the east coast of Asia.

Zimpangu, or Japan, is described thus: *This island lies 1,500 miles eastward from the coast of Mangi. It has gold in abundance, but this is not easily allowed to be removed. They are idolaters.* This island appears a mere 20 degrees of longitude west of Cuba; and Marco Polo's *Cathay* is displayed only 60 degrees west of the new discoveries.

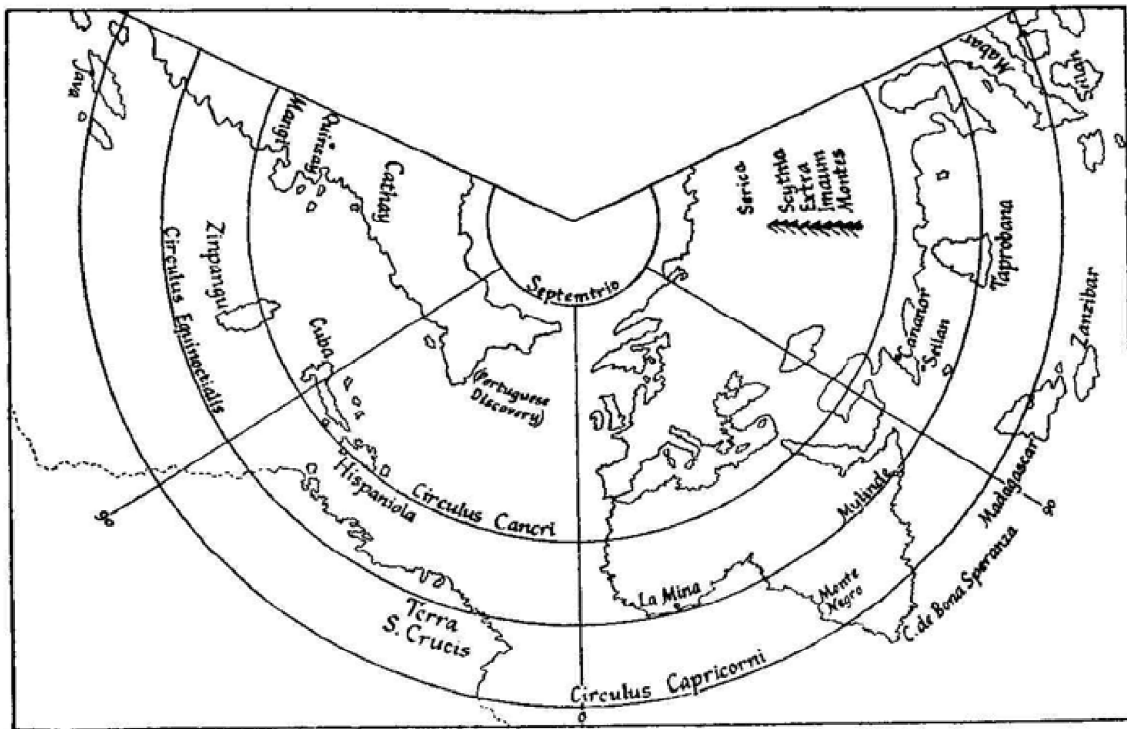
The explorations of the Corte-Reals on the coast of Newfoundland in 1500 and 1501 are referred to in the inscription directly north of *Insula Hispaniola*, or Haiti, *This land the seamen of the King of Portugal discovered.*

Africa is now surprisingly well delineated, showing the whole of the east coast but the interior details are pure speculation. In this regard the map incorporates the names fairly close to those of Cantino, and an attempt to fit in the India of Vasco da Gama; between the Persian Gulf and the Indus of Ptolemy, the cartographer has inserted a narrow peninsula, trending southwestwards, on which are shown the towns of *Cobait* (Cambay), *Cananor* and *Calicut* (these two were visited by Vasco da Gama).

Madagascar and its adjacent island Zanzibar are greatly exaggerated in size. Further east, the rest of Asia still follows Ptolemaic lines. The position of the much-exaggerated islands of Madagascar and Zanzibar in the Indian Ocean is exactly reversed from that on the *La Cosa* map (#305). The inscription on the former states:

This island is larger and richer than any in the world. It is 40,000 miles in circumference. From the kingdom of Moabar, reads the inscription on the scroll east of the islands, ships reach the island of Madagascar in twenty-nine days that can hardly return in three months because the vehement current of that sea runs southward. This island has groves of sandal-trees and all kinds of spices, also elephants, lions, lynxes, leopards, stags, camels, and many birds; and there is great abundance of gold there.

Seila [Ceylon] is correctly represented as a small island to the southeast of India. *Taprobana*, formerly identified with Ceylon but later with Sumatra, also appears with an inscription to the southwest reading: *Before Taprobana there are very many islands, which are said to be 1,778 in number. But these shown are the ones of which the names have been handed down.* To increase the confusion, a *Seila Isula* also appears among the Southeast Asian islands, probably standing for Sumatra. This confusion also occurs on the *Behaim* globe (#258).



A re-drawing of the Contarini/Roselli map (from Crone)

The continent of Europe is fairly correctly drawn in outline except that Greenland, or *Engronelant*, which is placed north of Scandinavia as a peninsula of that land. The Mediterranean Sea is fairly well drawn although it is given too great an extension east and west. It is the subject of the partly illegible inscription on the corner of the map below South America, which has been rendered into English by Mr. Sprent as follows: . . . our Sea with the bays joined to it runs out into the Adriatic Sea, the Sea of

Marmora, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, but into the Ocean only by the Strait of Hercules in the likeness of a peninsula. This narrow channel is almost an isthmus of sea. But the sea called Hyrcanian [Caspian] is surrounded by land on all sides. . . .

As might be expected, cartographers of the early 16th century began by attempting to fit portions of the new discoveries into the conventional [Ptolemaic] framework, and finished by accepting unreservedly the new pattern of the world revealed by the navigators. Three stages in this process may be discerned: (1) the emendation of a world map which had much in common with that used by Martin Behaim for his globe; (2) an intermediary stage which produced a combination of Ptolemaic and the 'new' geography; and (3) finally the adoption of the complete contemporary world outline as embodied in the *Caveri* chart (#307). This transformation was made, as far as printed maps are concerned, in the space of ten years, as can be seen in the maps of Martin Waldseemüller (#310).

The first in this series is this map of the world, designed by Giovanni Matteo Contarini and engraved on copper by Francesco Roselli in 1506. The map, on a conical projection with Ptolemy's prime meridian as the central meridian and the equator truly drawn, has the eastern coasts of Asia in the west and Ptolemy's *Magnus Sinus* and the islands of the medieval travelers in the east. As mentioned earlier, in one of the inscriptions the cartographer says: *if by folding together the two sets of degrees [i.e. on the eastern and western margins] you form them into a circle, you will perceive the whole spherical world combined into 360 degrees*. This is not strictly true, for the map does not extend much beyond the Tropic of Capricorn; but elsewhere there are verses extolling Contarini for having marked out

The world and all its seas on a flat map,
Europe, Libya, Asia, and the Antipodes,
The poles and zones and sites of places,
The parallels for the climes of the mighty globe.

These references to the whole sphere, the *Antipodes*, the poles, and the globe, are intriguing; it is possible that the cartographer, especially in view of some similarities between his map and the *Behaim* globe, had in fact a globe before him. It is possible, but not very probable, that another section of his map, now lost, portrayed the southern hemisphere.

Contarini had the same struggle as all other cartographers of his time, how do I graft the conflicting information of new discoveries to the west onto the well plowed information of the standard Ptolemy world map. His map shows that he rejected the large continuous barrier of land obstructing a direct voyage to *Cathay*, as shown on the *La Cosa* map (#305), many early Portuguese's manuscript maps, and most famously repeated on the Waldseemüller world map of 1507 (#310). However, his depiction of South America is in full support of a large, yet to be fully explored, continent. In comparison to the rest of the map, the nomenclature of the New World is scant, and mostly confined to the West Indies and the coast of South America. Two toponyms are found to the far north, *Rio de Rosas* and *Terra de Caramella*. Sprent renders the legend on the Asiatic coast below these toponyms as, "*This land the seaman of the King of Portugal discovered,*" likely referring to the voyages of Gaspar Cortreal, 1500 and 1501.

Two years after this Contarini map, another map very similar to it was published at Rome, and is found in copies of the 1508 Ptolemy edition. This is attributed to

Johannes Ruysch (#313). Except for small details, the projection is identical with that of Contarini's map. It is stated to be *ex recentibus confecta observationibus* [composed from recent observations], and certainly draws on sources later than Contarini. The Indian sub-continent has much better proportions, but the Far East is in general still Ptolemaic, and the three 'Ceylons' occur again. The inscription identifying *Zimpangu* with Hispaniola is repeated, but there is an interesting addition of 20 degrees west of the Azores where *Antilia insula* is inserted, the mythical island in the Atlantic, which first appears on charts of the early 15th century. In South America there are also important additions. The eastern coast is continued southwards to the Rio de Cananor at 30° S, and it is noted that exploration has extended to 50° S latitude, a reflection of Amerigo Vespucci's voyage of 1501. In the north, there is an isolated portion of the mainland, probably Florida, and the Portuguese discoveries in the far north, with the addition of Greenland, are again shown as part of Asia.

The great promontory of Asia extending eastward to the North Atlantic is part of the province of *Tangut*, mentioned by Marco Polo; its discovery is attributed to the Portuguese, a reference to the voyages of the Corte-Reals. Only *Zimpangu* [Japan] lies between the West Indies and Cathay, 60° farther west. The legend between *Zimpangu* and *Cathay* refers to the fourth voyage of Columbus to *Ciamba*. This world map was the first printed map to show any part of the New World, and was designed by the Venetian G. M. Contarini and engraved at Florence by Francesco Roselli.

Edward Heawood's article on the map, produced in 1923, provides the most detailed analysis of the 1506 Contarini-Roselli world map. Of interest here was Heawood's treatment of the northern part of Asia and the distorted, northerly expansion of Scandinavia into what the present author terms as a "second" Greenland representation. From Heawood:

For the size of the map it is remarkable how much detail the author has contrived to put into the interior and east of Asia, about which his data are fuller than those of most of the smaller maps of the time. Many of the legends refer to the products of the several regions or to the faith of the peoples spoken of – whether Christians (Nestorians) or Idolaters; and quite a number are given in almost the same words as by Waldseemüller (#310), though in slightly shortened form as necessitated by the smaller space available. A few are not to be found (apparently) in the latter, as, e.g., the mention, in the very center of the continent, of the "*oppidum siue præsidium eorum qui apud Seras proficiscuntur*." In the center and west such scraps of actual information taken from the medieval travelers are strangely mixed with the vague and semi-mythical data due to Ptolemy and other ancient writers. As in Waldseemüller we still have the altars of Caesar and Alexander, and the columns of the latter, located by Ptolemy in the region north and east of the Sea of Azov. The trace of another legend indirectly connected with Alexander is to be seen in the "*Judei Clausi*" already placed in the far north-east of Asia by Martellus (c. 1490) and shown also by Waldseemüller and Ruysch (#313) (by the last as "*Judei inclusi*"). As Yule has shown, in his notes dealing with Marco Polo's references to the nations shut up by Alexander and the country of *Gog and Magog* (Book L, chapters iv. and lix.), there is an extraordinary jumble of legends in regard to the "shut-up nations," arising in part from a confusion between the wall supposed to have been built by Alexander across the pass of Derbend on the Caspian shore to keep out the wild peoples of the north, and the Great Wall of China.

In the extreme north the Scandinavian region is shown, as by Waldseemüller, after the pattern set by Claudius Clavus nearly a century earlier, and already taken over from him in the MS. maps of Donnus Nicolaus [Germanus] and

[Henricus Germanus] Martellus. Greenland is however misplaced (as by Nicolaus and Waldseemüller, but not Martellus) so as to lie north instead of west of Scandinavia. Like the models from which he has copied, and so many of his successors throughout the 16th century, Contarini uses the corrupt form of the name, “Engronelant,” due to a strange misunderstanding of *Eyn Gronelandz aa* (“a Greenland stream”) – words occurring in a verse placed by Clavus round the Greenland coast-line.



Northern Europe, including the “second Greenland” construct. For perspective, the actual northernmost point of present-day Norway is 69.32° latitude. The toponym Norbегia was positioned at 72° latitude and the Engronelant (Greenland) sits nearly entirely above the 80th parallel of latitude.

This “second Greenland” construct. The 1427 Clavus First Map of the North (Nancy Map) topped Engroniclandi out at 72° (Ptolemy-scale) and 68° (Clavus-scale). Contarini-Roselli’s placement of Engronelant is displaced even further to the north by 9° and 12°, respectively.

Location: British Library, London

Size: 17 x 25 inches (420 x 630 mm)

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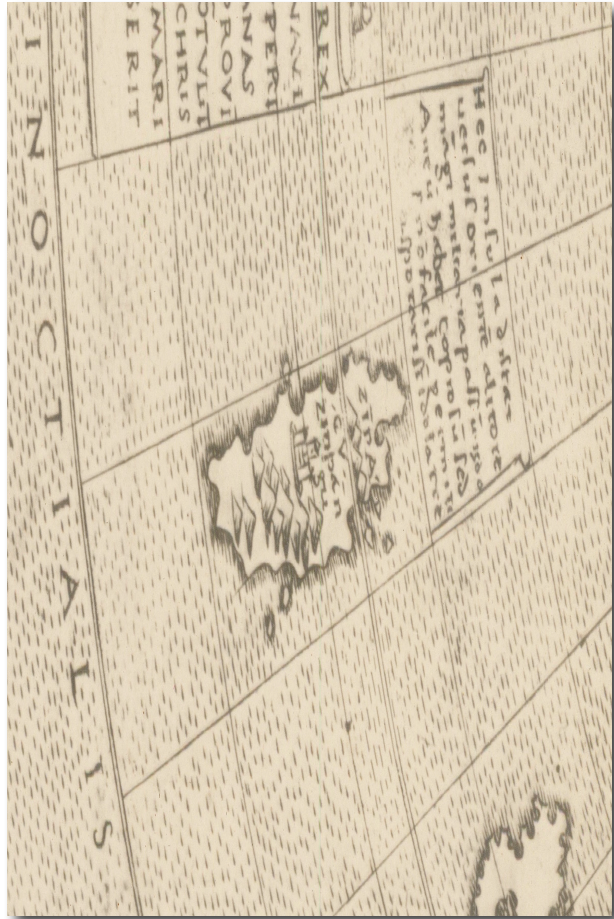
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*illustrated





Detail of Zimgpangu [Japan], Terra di Cuba [Cuba] and the top of Terra S. Crucis [South America] and the Portuguese discovery of Newfoundland attached to Cathay [Asia]



The mainland of South America bears only one toponym, *Terra S Crucis*. (It should be noted that the three toponyms mentioned all represent Portuguese explorations). It is somewhat surprising that the toponym *Mundus Novus* does not appear on this map as it does appear on another Roselli map and the Ruysch map of 1508 (#313). Along its north shore, a legend notifies us that "This is the gulf in which the Spanish found very many pearls, and along this coast lions, swine, stags, and other kinds of animals." Slightly north, there is a second notation that translates to, "The whole of this sea is fresh water." This phenomenon occurs at the mouth of great rivers. Sprent assigns this phrase to the Caribbean Sea and it likely refers to the discharge of fresh water from the Orinoco River, in current day Venezuela, discovered by Christopher Columbus on 1 August 1498, during his third voyage. Both these notations are proximate to several named Caribbean islands. In reference to *Terra S. Crucis*, at the lower margin and center of the map, a damaged and thus incomplete legend reads. "This is the land named Santa Cruz which was lately [discovered] by the most noble lord Pedro Alvares [Cabral] of the illustrious stock of the most serene King of [Portugal] in 1499 The location of this information suggest that previously, but now lost, there once existed an eastward extension of the coastline of Santa Cruz, mimicking the coastlines on Portuguese manuscript maps of that time and most famously noted on the Piri Reis map of 1513 (#322).

