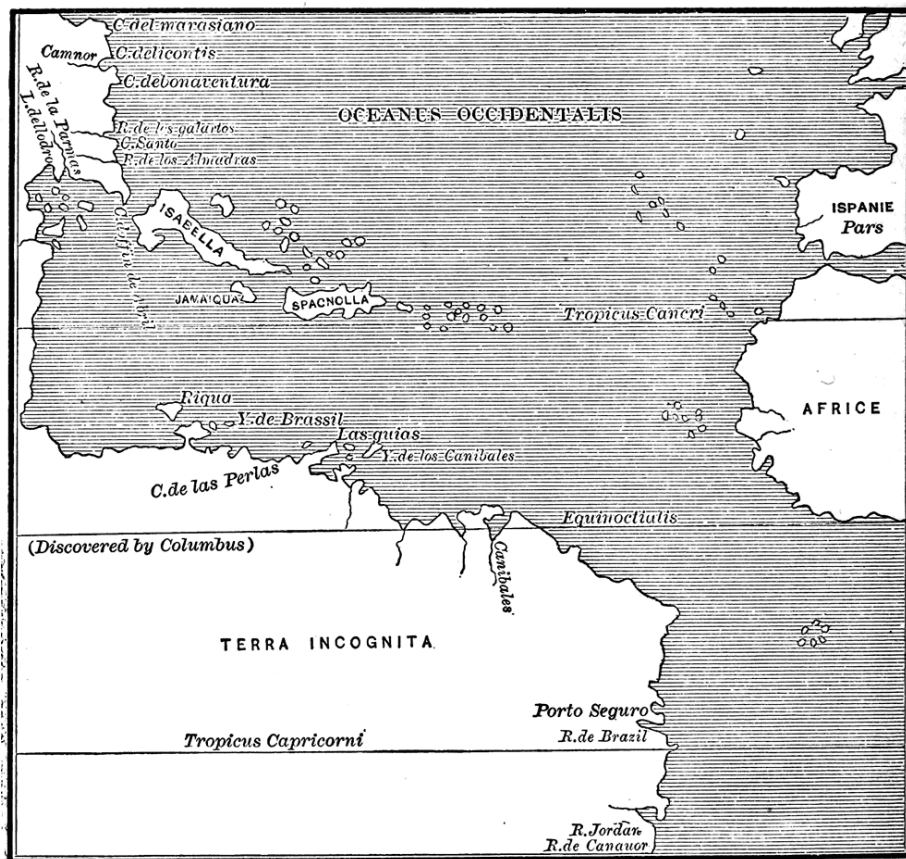


The map illustrated above is the *Tabula Terra Nova* [a.k.a. The Admiral's Map] by Martin Waldseemüller in his 1513 Stasbourg atlas, 15 x 18 inches. Early mapmakers problems are often revealed by comparing treatment of the same area on different maps. For example, when Waldseemüller changed from the truncated, heart-shaped world that encompassed America in its western sector (#310) to this plane chart of the new discoveries in the "western ocean," the latitudes of the West Indies became confused. Cuba appears directly on the Tropic of Cancer on the world map, while in the *Terre Nove* it is north of that line. In addition, although *Spagnolla* [Hispaniola] is south of the Tropic on the world map, it lies north of it on the America chart. Hispaniola is delineated with a southwest-to-northeast axis on the world map, but revised on *Terre Nove* to east-west. If these small distinctions appear trivial, imagine the chaos they create for today's researchers who attempt to determine which small Bahamian island actually was the first landfall of Columbus. The New World landmass configuration has the North American continental landmass joined with that of South America with only one new name, *Porto Real* (*Pagus S. pauli, Alapago de Sam Paullo* from the *Caveri* map).



In 1513, the *Terre Nove* was issued along with nineteen other modern maps in the most important 16th century edition of Ptolemy's *Geography*. By then Waldseemüller had realized his earlier injustice in naming the entire region for Amerigo Vespucci while overlooking Columbus' name. The word "America" was now deleted and a two-line commentary added just below the equator indicating that Columbus was the original discoverer, sailing in the name of the King of Spain. In the introduction to the volume, Waldseemüller identified "The Admiral" as the source of information for his delineation

of the New World. During this period no other sea captain was called by that title. Consequently, *Terre Nove*, with its Columbus information, is widely known as "*The Admiral's Map*." The interior of South America was still totally unknown and thus marked in large letters *Terra Ingonita*. But there was a reference to fresh water around the mouth of the Amazon River, pointing to the presence of the large river.

In the Ptolemy published in Strasburg in 1522 by Laurent Fries, there is a reduced version of this map, also bearing the title *Tabula Terre Nove*, and to which is added the following curious statement (in translation): *Not wishing to arrogate to himself the merit of others, he declares that those maps were constructed by the late Martin Ilacomylus, though published here of smaller dimensions than the original.* Lorenz Fries' work was of great importance. Among his most important accomplishments, it was his sketch of the original 1507 Waldseemüller world map which was copied by Peter Apian in Apian's world map of 1520 (#331), which for more than 100 years was believed to be the oldest surviving map to name *America*, prior to the re-discovery of the original 1507 Waldseemüller map at the beginning of the 20th Century.

The map shows a continuous coastline between North and South America, with the massive east-west coastline of South America being the map's single largest feature, extending south to approximately the Rio de la Plata lies. In the Caribbean, the islands of Cuba (named *Isabella Ins.* after Queen Isabella of Spain), Hispaniola (*Spgnoha*), and Puerto Rico (*Boriguem*) are shown, along with numerous other islands. A Spanish flag is shown planted in Cuba. Continuing north, North America is plotted to beyond the mouth of the St. Lawrence; at the correct latitude of the St. Lawrence there is a river named *Caninor*, quite possibly the St. Lawrence. This region had almost certainly been already explored by various Bristol expeditions. In all, over 15 place-names are shown on the North American Coastline, drawn primarily from Portuguese sources, including the *Cantino portolano* of 1502 and the *Caveri* of c. 1505.

Donald McGuirk addressed the issue of the large continental landmass displayed by Waldseemüller in the northwest. This northwest continent was on several earlier maps than the *Carta Marina*, the *Cantino* (#306), the *Caveri* (#307), the Waldseemüller 1507 (#310), and the Ruysch map (#313). If you look at North America and you look at the *Carta Marina* this certainly does look like North America. You can understand how many people feel very strongly that this represents the geography of North America. It just looks right, but you have to be careful. On the 1507 map you notice that the continent isn't named and just southeast of this continent, the northwest continental landmass, you see an island named *Isabela*. Now, on the other hand, if you go to the Waldseemüller 1516 map there's been some changes. Now you can see that the continent has been named, it's named *Cuba*, and Columbus discovered Cuba and he actually said it was part of Asia, and that is what this map says. And if you look at the island of *Isabela* it is no longer named. Now McGuirk thinks a logical conclusion might be, it doesn't have to be but might be that between 1507 and 1516 Waldseemüller or one of his cohorts discovered information that suggested to him that this was Columbus' Cuba, this giant continental landmass. According to McGuirk there are a number of individuals who have held the minority opinion that it is. And he presents a list of 17 of those, starting very early. The most outspoken of these 17 was George Nunn, who wrote several articles on this topic.

McGuirk bases his theory on three points: number one, the *Diario* or the log of his first voyage; number two, a group of letters that Columbus wrote to the King and Queen of Spain and what he calls the collection of the *Libro Copiador*, and the third is a

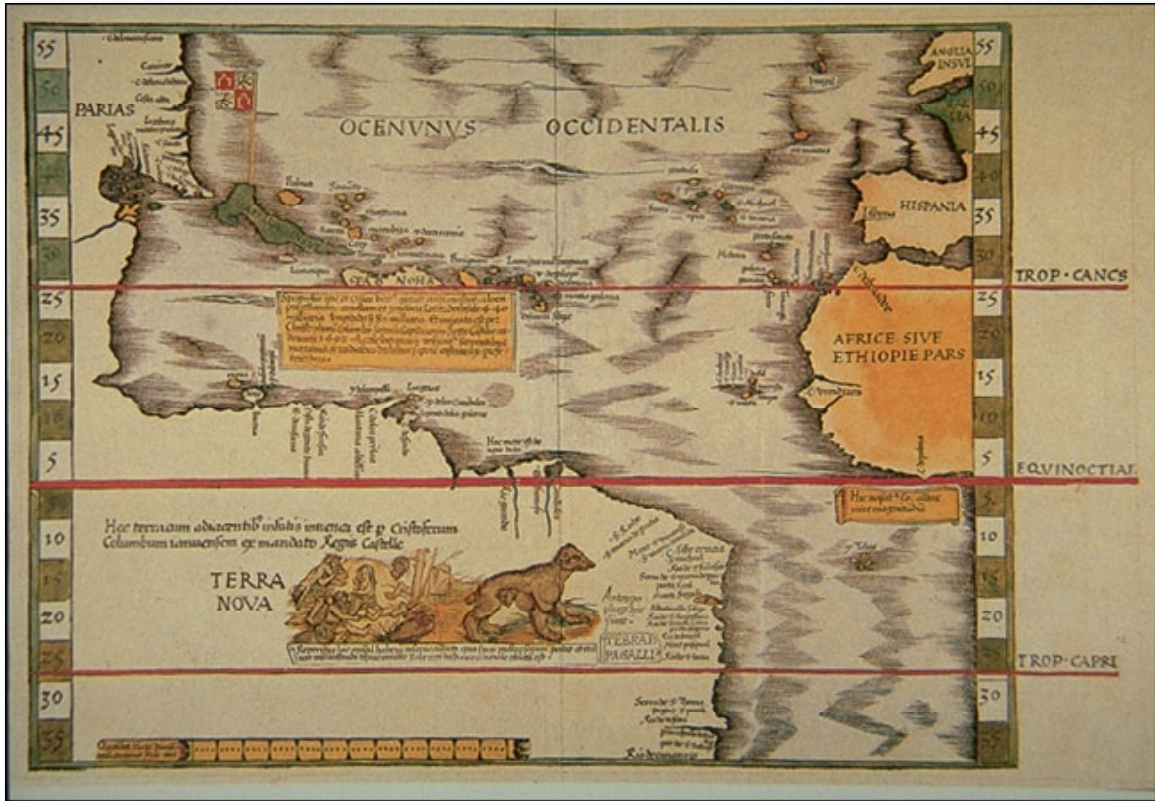
manuscript document written by a gentleman named Fernan Perez de Luna and what he names *Informacion y Testimonio*. So from these three items he extracts the following geographic information regarding the land that Columbus named Cuba - the shape of Columbus' Cuba, the size of Columbus' Cuba, and the relative position of Columbus' Cuba with the island of *Isabela*.

Locations: BL Maps C.1.d.8, British Library, London
LC 359, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Size: 42 x 36 cm/16.5 x 14 in.

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- *illustrated



Oceani Occidentalis Seu Terrae Novae Tabula [The Admiral's Map], 1492,
15 x 11 inches by Lorenze Fries



This woodcut map, 24x30 inches, is one of the first to show any part of North America. It originally appeared in the 1513 Strasbourg edition of Ptolemy's "Geographia". The mapmaker, Martin Waldseemüller, made a trial version of this map in 1507 which contains the name "America" printed over Brazil; the only known copy is at Brown University. In the same year he printed a large wall map showing both North and South America; the only known copy is at the Library of Congress. After six years of further work, Waldseemüller finished his edition of Ptolemy in 1513. He supplemented its 27 ancient maps with 20 "modern" ones, including two showing discoveries by Columbus and Vespucci. This is the first of those, called "Hydrographia sive Charta marina" in the table of contents. The map that followed it in the volume, "Tabula Terre Nove," shows South America and the Caribbean in greater detail. The Wisconsin Historical Society ownership stamp was applied in 1896, but no other provenance data appears to survive. A clipped catalog description pasted in the right margin (listing its price at 30 francs) suggests that it had passed through the hands of a French dealer.



This is the only known copy of this particular world map by Waldseemüller, ca. 1513 and contains an early appearance of the name "America", now in the John Carter Brown Library. This map, also known as the Stevens-John Carter Brown map, was once considered the first to display the name AMERICA prior to and after the discovery of Waldseemüller's 1507 (#310) world map. For an in-depth discussion of the argument, see Seymour I. Schwartz's book Putting "America" on the Map, pp. 216-237



Tabula Nova Orbis/Diefert Situs Orbis Hydrographorum Ab Eo Quem Ptolomeus Posuit by Laurent Fries, 1535, 37.9 x 52.5 cm



Carta Marina Navigatoria Portugallen Navigationes Atque Tocius Cogniti Orbis. . . , 1516

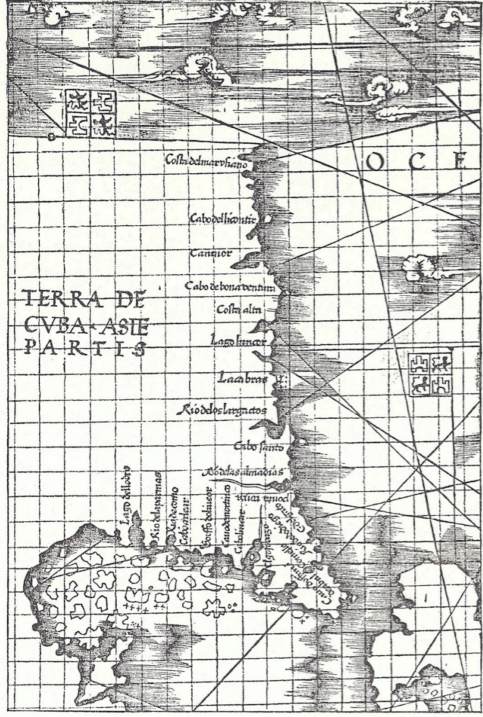
The monumental *Carta Marina* or *Navigators' Chart* of 1516 by Martin Waldseemüller is an even more astonishing tour-de-force than the author's great wall map of 1507 (#310). It is approximately the same large size, twelve woodcut sheets measuring in total nearly 8 feet by 4.5 feet. The only known example was also found with the earlier Waldseemüller map of 1507 in Schloss Wolfegg, Germany in 1901. The *Carta Marina* is bound in the same book and is likewise reckoned to be a proof copy. One sheet, showing West Africa, exists both in manuscript and printed form.

A lengthy panel in the lower left-hand part of the map contains Martin Waldseemüller's address to the reader, in which he mentions the narratives and voyages he has used, particularly a collection by Francanzano Vincenza published in 1507. Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci are accorded their place, as well as the 13th and 14th century explorers Marco Polo, Piano Carpini and Odoric. It is reckoned that Waldseemüller made extensive use of the *Caveri* manuscript map (#307) or a similar source showing the discoveries of the Portuguese to India and beyond. Like this map, the *Carta Marina* is also crisscrossed by directional lines.

On the right-hand side of the map a smaller panel gives the date of the map, 1516, and the grant of a privilege for four years. Both panels are surrounded by elegant corded decorations, and indeed throughout the map as a whole the decoration and woodcutting is of a very high standard. The principle historian to first describe this map, Joseph Fisher, says "The degree of skill and ornamentation—in borders, cartouches and festoons—is considerably higher than that of the map of 1507 and shows the hand of an eminent master who unmistakably belongs to the school of Dürer." Comparison is also made with similar ornamentation in the Stabius-Dürer map of 1515.

Apart from a few retrograde exceptions, Waldseemüller's *Carta Marina* shows the entire world according to the most up-to-date geographic knowledge of the time. He does however leave quite unclear the relationship between the New World and Asia. The western part of the map extends only to 280° west and Asia in the east is cut short at 172°; nearly a third of the world is therefore missing. Waldseemüller's New World,

which does not bear, as in 1507, the name *America*, is still marked *Terra De Cuba Asiae Partis*. The Corte-Reals' discovery of Newfoundland or Nova Scotia is signified by a descriptive panel adjacent to a large mid-Atlantic island saying that this land is reported to extend 600 miles, is probably joined to the other continent, and is inhabited by people who live in houses made from tall trees, dressed in skins and painted like Indians.



Northern Europe, which in the 1507 map was taken from Ptolemaic sources, is now redrawn according to current portolan charts. The British Isles are substantially more correct but incorporate the widespread misconception of many portolan [navigational] maps which show Scotland and England separated by a strait. Various detailed improvements to the coastline of Africa have been made but a curious error has occurred by following the *Caveri* map (#307) relating to the Red Sea. Normally this is correctly shown running approximately north-south, but for some reason it has been re-oriented almost east-west, seriously distorting the Arabian peninsula in the process. Both the west and east coasts of India are shown in remarkable detail, with many place names from Portuguese sources. Further place names extend beyond the mouths of the Ganges down what is now the Malay peninsula, but these localities and kingdoms move into the realm of the

hypothetical. To the north in Tartary and China, mountain ranges, woods and rivers abound. A profusion of descriptive legends give accounts of these fabled lands according to medieval travelers' tales.

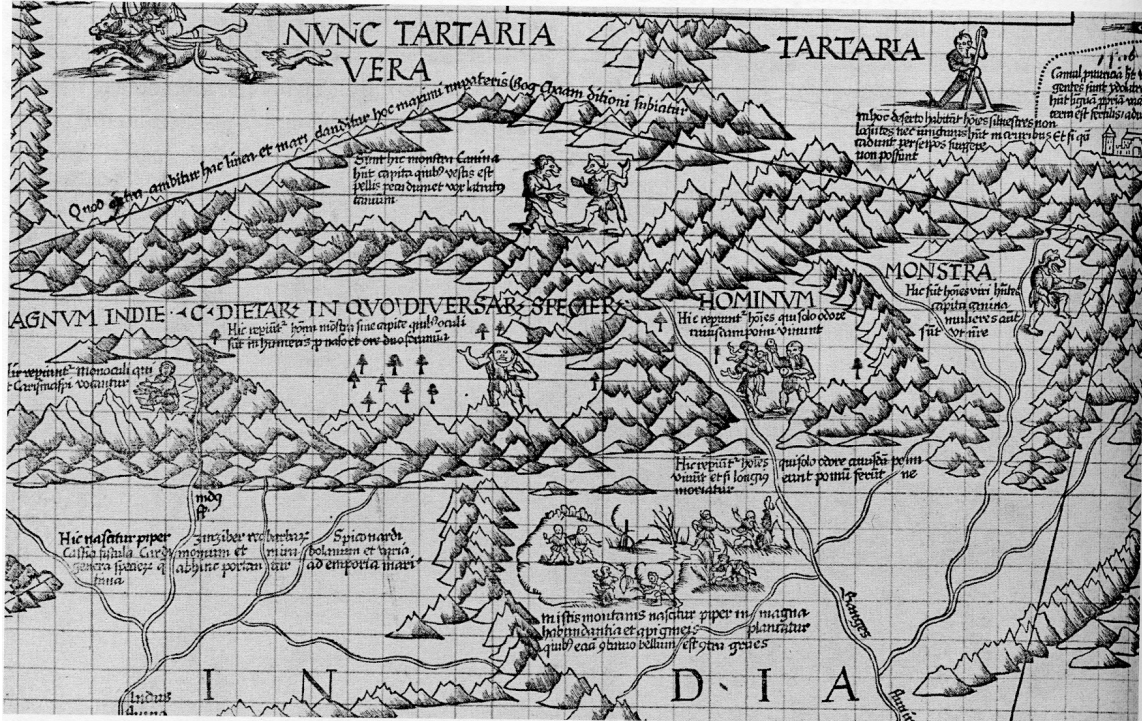
Historian Gregory McIntosh has found that the extant copy of the Waldseemüller *Carta Marina* of 1516 was modified sometime after the initial woodcutting by using a map of the King-type (#307.1) as a source for possibly as many as eighteen additional place-names in the Caribbean and South America. An examination shows – quite unexpectedly – it could have even been the Ruysch map itself that was the source for the twelve King-type place-names added in a thinner hand along the Spanish Main to the *Carta Marina* woodblocks.

Faced with the seeming inconsistencies between his *Lusitano-Germanic* model, the *Caverio* planisphere (#307), and the dissimilar designs and nomenclatures of the King-type map, particularly in the West Indies, Martin Waldseemüller in 1516 made his choices, perhaps partially decided by consulting the Ruysch world map (#313). At least three cartographic images of the New World presented themselves to him: 1) the *Caverio* planisphere, his long-time model, with *Baie* in Brazil, the dog-shaped island of *Isabela* in place of Cuba, and the unnamed *Cantinean* landmass to the west; 2) a King-type map with *Abatia* in Brazil, Cuba as a small, thin island named "*Cuba*," and with no other land to the west; and 3) the Ruysch map in State 1 or later (a blend of King-type and *Lusitano-Germanic* delineations and nomenclature) with *ABATIA* in Brazil, no Cuba island, no Cuba name, and the unnamed *Cantinean* landmass to the west.

Waldseemüller seems to have conceptually overlaid these three cartographic images, one on top of the other. By substituting the King-type *Abatia* for the Caverio's *Baie* (confirmed by Vespucci and Ruysch), by upholding the chimerical island of *Isabela* of the Caverio over the King-type smaller island of Cuba, and by reassigning the King-type name "Cuba" to the Cantinean landmass (in need of a name) – thereby retaining all three of the possible islands (*Hispaniola*, *Isabela/Cuba*, the *Cantinean* landmass) and two of the three names (*Spagnolla*, *Cuba*) – Waldseemüller in the *Carta Marina* completes the fusing of the King-type New World cartography with that of the *Lusitano-Germanic* design, a melding begun eight years earlier on the Johannes Ruysch map. This phase in the development of New World cartographic design and nomenclature came to dominate Central European mapmaking in the following decades.

Waldseemüller, or perhaps the woodcutter artist, has added a host of interesting little vignettes, animals, and regal figures decorating the surface of the map. We see the first opossum in South America, with its large pouch for carrying its young (see page 3), an elephant and one of the first pictures of an (Indian) rhinoceros in Africa and a mounted reindeer in Tartary. There is also a puzzling animal shown in Scandinavia which seems like a cross between a wild boar and a tusked elephant—perhaps a mastodon. Highly realistic cannibal scenes offer warnings to travelers to Brazil and Java, and in India can be seen what may be a depiction of *suttee*. Many local rulers are drawn seated on their thrones or in front of their tents: the largest regal vignette is that of the Great Khan of Tartary or China. Off the southern tip of South Africa King Emanuel (Manoel) of Portugal rides triumphantly astride a large fish. In Africa Waldseemüller has a legend about *ciclioped[es] sive monoculi* [Cyclopes or monoculi] and includes a new Renaissance image of one of the traditional African monsters: in west Africa he has an image of a rhinoceros, which recalls the *monocerus* on the *Hereford mappamundi* (Book IIB #226), but Waldseemüller's image is much more lifelike, and is based on Albrecht Dürer's famous image of a rhinoceros made in 1515, just one year before the creation of Waldseemüller's map. Waldseemüller's rhinoceros is an apt symbol of how, although the details were updated, Africa continued in its ancient role as a source of monsters into the 16th century and beyond.

In spite of such a rich portrayal of geographical and popular or legendary features, Waldseemüller's *Carta Marina* had surprisingly little later influence. If, like the 1507 wall map, as many as 1,000 copies were printed, then virtually no contemporary records of their dissemination survive. In 1525 a slightly smaller version of this map was recut, also in twelve woodblocks, by Laurent Fries and re-issued in 1527 and 1530.



Representatives of seven other monstrous races in Tartaria and India on Waldseemuller's *Carta marina*. In Tartaria, to the northeast of India, are the men with no knees; Waldseemuller's source for this race was John of Plano Carpini's account of Asia. In northern India are two cynocephali. In north-central India are found, from left to right, the one-eyed Carimaspians (or Arimaspians), a headless blemmyae or epiphagus, the two apple-smellers, and another cynocephalus. Unlike the other races in India, which were inspired by Pierre d' Ailly's writings, this last came from Plano Carpini. To the south of these are the pygmies.



Colored facsimile copy of Waldseemuller's *Carta marina*