

**Title:** *Paris Green (Quirini) Globe*

**Date:** 1507/1515-1528

**Author:** (unknown - Martin Waldseemüller?)

**DESCRIPTION:** In the geographical department of the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris is a globe referred to in cartographical literature as the *Paris Globe vert [Green Globe]*, the *Acton Globe No. 1*, the *Bazolle Globe No. 1* and the *Quirini Globe*, the first name being given to it by Gabriel Marcel, by reason of the prominence of the color green employed in painting the seas. This valuable globe was discovered in Venice, and purchased in 1879 by the geographical department of the Paris National Library, where it is numbered 242. It is an unsigned and undated wooden sphere, 24 cm in diameter. Its surface appears to have been covered with a coating of paint, originally white, and on this the world map was drawn. The configurations and coloring are artistically executed, with the seabords deeply shaded, so as to give the continents and islands (most of which are made conspicuous in red or gold) the appearance of being raised above the seas, which are painted in blue, but due to the varnish applied for protection is now a very dark green; hence the name given to the globe. The inscriptions in dark brown, perhaps originally black, are neatly written, clearly suggesting that the globe was constructed in the first quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps as early as 1513 or 1515.

The equator, the tropics, and the polar circles are traced in gold; the degrees of latitude and longitude are marked in red, and at intervals of ten degrees. The prime meridian is made to pass through the Cape Verde Islands, islands referred to as *Insule Portugalensium invente anno Domini 1472*. This globe shows a striking resemblance to those of Schöner of 1515 (#328), a fact which has led Marcel to refer it to the *Schönerian* school, though not to attribute it directly to Johannes Schöner himself. A very important and interesting feature of the globe is the appearance of the name *America* no less than four times in the New World; twice in what we now call North America and twice in South America. It is, indeed, the oldest known cartographical monument on which the name *America* is given both to the north and the south continental areas. On the southern continent we read *America ab inuentore nuncupata* [America was named after the discoverer], and near the *Antilles Iste insule per Columbus genuensem almirantem et mandato regis castelle invente sunt* [These islands were discovered by Columbus, a Genoese admiral, by command of the King of Castile]. The historian Henry Harrisse observes that it appears the cartographer thought of Columbus as the discoverer of the West India islands only, and that he thought the honor of the discovery of the American continents, north and south, belongs to Amerigo Vespucci.

Also, the *Paris Green* globe is somewhat unique in that it appears to offer multiple passages from the Gulf of Mexico to the yet-to-be-discovered Pacific Ocean and Japan, whereas Waldseemüller's 1507 map (#310) only shows one (on the main portion of the map; none on the "inset map" - top right next to Vespucci); as do the Schöner globes of 1515 and 1520 (#328) and the *Brixen* globe of 1522 (#333.2).



The configurations and nomenclature are entirely *Schönerean*; but the latitudes present differences, as here, the northern section of the American continent is made to extend from 20° to 60° N, whilst in Schöner's globe of 1520, it covers only the space between 11° and 51° N latitudes. That northern region is precisely, in shape and in its details, like the corresponding region in the *Caveri* world map (#307) and the *Schönerean* globes above described; that is, the coast is prolonged southward, with identical profiles. But where in the earliest of these (*supra*, No. 104) no names of localities are given, here we notice eight, all of which are also inscribed in *Caveri* (#307) and in *Waldseemüller* (#310), viz.:

*C. delicontir*  
*Caninor*

*C. arlear*  
*C. de bona ventura*  
*Costa alta*  
*C. Santo*  
*Capo doffin d'abril*  
*Lago dellodro*

Those names, which with seven more, also *Cantinean* (#306), are likewise on the tall northern continental section in the globe of Schöner dated 1520 (#328). The nomenclature presents another peculiarity. Several localities here (which is not the case with the other *Schönerean* globes), are designated as regions:

*Regia de Cananorino*  
*Regio de S, Anthonio*  
*Regio Santi Herohimi*  
*Regio grande*

An austral land appears, though nameless on the *Paris Green-Quirini* globe, almost exactly as it does on the same area that Schöner called *Brasilie regio* on his globe of 1515, and *Brasilia inferior* on his globe of 1520. As to the well known denomination: *Papagalli terra*, it is recalled by the legend: *Hic reperiuntur rubei psitaci*, [Here are found the red parrots] which indicates that the prototype, like the *Cantino* (#306) and *Caveri* charts (#307), was adorned with representations of the *Ara Macao* [scarlet macaw], first brought to Europe, either by Gaspar de Lemos in 1500, or by Pedralvarez Cabral in July, 1501.

The *Green-Quirini* globe, much as it resembles those made by Schöner, is not, in many scholars' opinion, the direct work of that geographer. Experts at the *Bibliothèque Nationale* studied the *Paris Green-Quirini* globe and have "re-dated" this globe to 1507 and attributed it to Martin Waldseemüller (#310).

It has a meridian, (the prime meridian seems to pass over the Cape Verde islands, also discovered by the Portuguese, as indicated in the globe), a horizon and rests on a central pivot foot wooden frame with four legs, with support forming tray.



*Paris Green-Quirini globe showing the North Pole*

The geography of this globe, particularly of the New World, is closely related to that of the Waldseemüller 1507 wall map (#310) and, thus, is a globe of the “Lusitano-Germanic” type. It has been presumed since Gabriel Marcel wrote in 1889 (prior to the discovery of the Waldseemüller wall map in 1901) that the *Paris Green-Quirini* globe was made by someone of a so-called “Schönerean school,” based upon the similarity of the depictions on the *Paris Green-Quirini* globe and Schöner's globe of 1515 (#328); thus, the *Paris Green-Quirini* globe is usually dated to circa 1515. It is not clear, however, whether the *Paris Green-Quirini* globe was copied directly from the Waldseemüller map or indirectly via the globes of Johann Schöner or others. More recently it has been suggested that Waldseemüller himself made the globe and that it predates the 1507 publication of the wall map. The *Paris Green-Quirini* globe, however, has the place-name *abbatia* in Brazil, which was once thought to be an indicator of influence from Waldseemüller and the Vosege Gymnasium, but is now known to instead be due to influence from Vespucci's earlier *Soderini Letter*. Other variant spellings and place-names, such as “*pons*,” indicate the toponymy on the globe may have been derived from an Italian intermediary rather than directly from a Lusitanian, Lothringian, or Nürnbergian cartographic source.

As mentioned above, the *Paris Green-Quirini* globe is noteworthy for having the new place-name “*America*” inscribed upon it in four places - twice in South America and twice in what appears to be North America (that is, the Cantinean northwest landmass of the Lusitano-Germanic cartography). Waldseemüller's wall map and printed globe gores of 1507 have the place-name “*America*” only once in South America. The place-name “*America*” does not appear again in North America until the printed world map of Mercator in 1538 (Shirley no. 74). Also noteworthy is the depiction of the Southern Continent as an annular landmass surrounding the pole similar to that seen on a few other maps and globes, such as the Schöner globe of 1520 and the Vatican MS Urb. Lat. 274, Folios 73v-74r world map of about 1530 (#352.2).

This globe, along with the *Wooden* globe (#357) made a few decades later, had been in the collections of the counts of Poloni since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The last of these counts to own it was Count Giorgio Pillone. His nephew, the Venetian antique dealer, Paolo Maresio Bazolle, sold it in 1874 (but it was in the Bazolle Collection in 1876?) to Admiral Guglielmo Acton (1825-1896). Count Paul Riant acquired it from Acton in Venice in 1878 or 1879 and ceded it to the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The several names by which this globe has been known – *Quirini*, *Acton*, *Bazolle*, *Vert*, *Green*, and the fact that there were two globes known as *Acton* and two globes known as *Bazolle* – has created much confusion in the literature, and this globe has sometimes been cited as two differing globes, for example by both Fiorini and Stevenson (relying on Fiorini).

**Location:** Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

**Size:** 9.4 inches/24 cm diameter (wood); total height is 45 cm

#### References:

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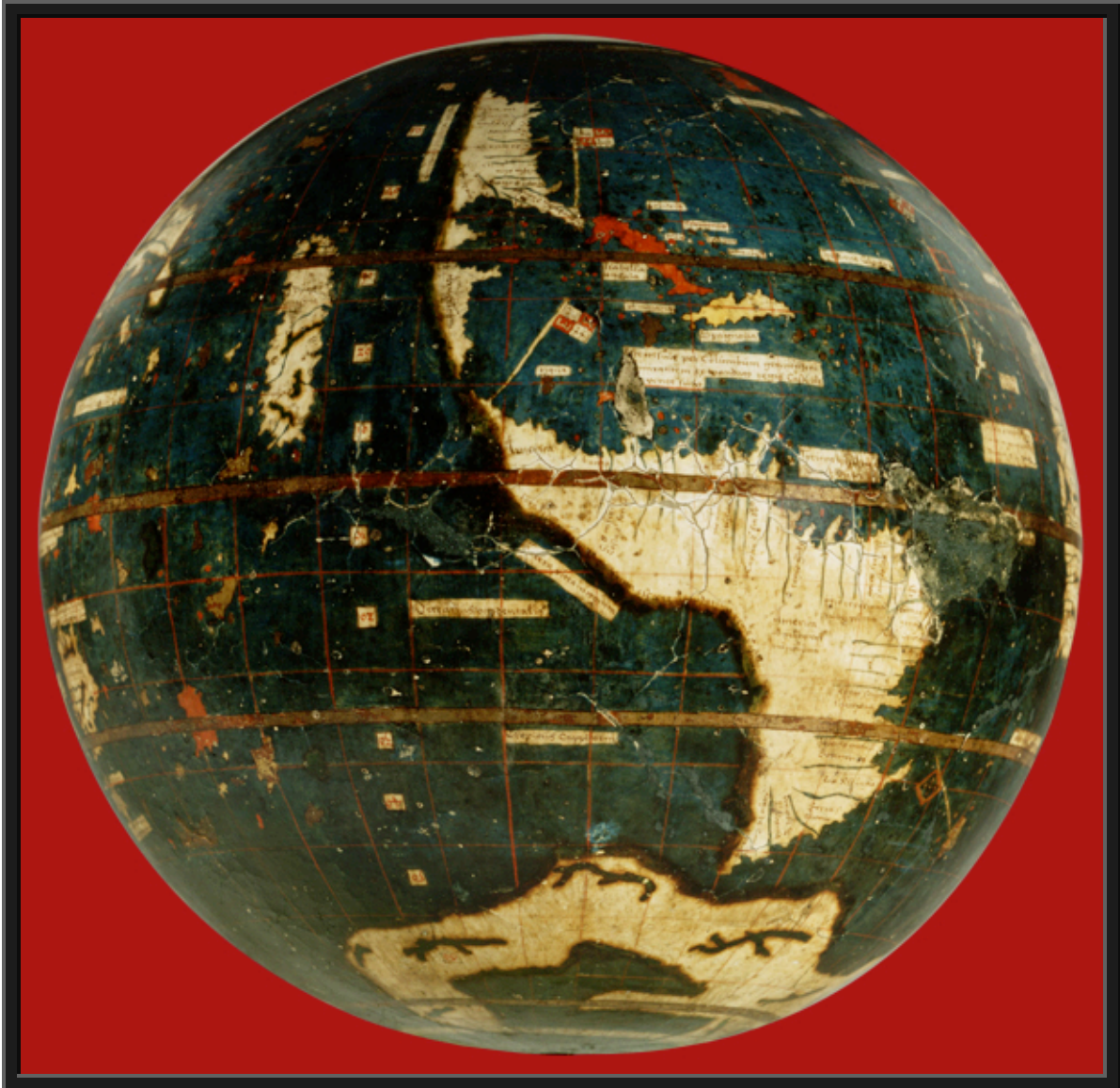
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\*illustrated



*Paris Green Globe showing North and South America, with the name "America" appearing four times (twice on each continent); note the multiple "passages" to Cipangu [Japan] and the un-named Antarctica*



*Paris Green-Quirini Globe showing the "Tiger Leg" of Asia*



*Paris Green-Quirini Globe showing the Indian Ocean*



*Paris Green-Quirini Globe showing Asia & Japan*



*Paris Green-Quirini Globe showing Antarctica and the South Pole*





Paris Green-Quirini Globe showing North & Central America and Cipangu [Japan], with multiple passages connecting the Caribbean Sea/Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean



