

Title: *Nova et integra universi orbis descriptio [Paris Gilt or De Bure Globe]*

Date: 1527

Author: (unknown)

Description This gilded copper globe, 23 cm in diameter, is made from two hollow hemispherical cups, welded neatly together along the equator. Equally neatly, the linework of the coastlines and of Magellan's voyage track of 1519- 1522 are engraved with a burin, while the place names and textual inscriptions, all in small capitals, were made with punches, which prevents palaeographic analysis of its origins and maker. The text is all in Latin, except that in Europe, instead of '*Aquae Pannonicae*', '*Brunsviga*' and '*Vindobona*', we find '*Baden*', '*Bravnschweig*' and '*Wien*', suggesting the work of a German artist. The globe had no base but was suspended by a string passed through two holes, one at either pole.

While the *Gilt* globe has attracted attention for its portrayal of the Americas, it seems never to have been exhaustively analyzed. Henry Harrisse's 1892 description includes only an illustration of its western hemisphere. Harrisse notes the similarities between the *Gilt* globe and Johannes Schöner's 'lost' globe of 1523 (#328), Harrisse goes on to show how the *Gilt* Globe served as a progenitor for an important series of globes and cordiform maps: Schöner's globe of 1533, the *Nancy* (#363) and *Wooden* (#357) globes c. 1535, and Oronce Fine's single cordiform map (1534-1536, #356).

Some early post-Columbus maps and globes had depicted the Americas simply as a coastline of unknown longitudinal width. This was an attempt to reconcile the known eastern extremities of Asia handed down by Ptolemy, and measured eastward from Europe, with Columbus' discoveries measured westward. After Magellan's 1519-1522 voyage, and the publication of Peter Martyr's *Decades* (1511-1530), several cartographers, including Schöner and the unknown designer of this globe, concluded that the Americas were an extension of Asia, rather than a separate continent, and so in their maps and globes place names from eastern Asia, mainly taken from Ptolemy and Marco Polo, are intermixed with those either recorded or bestowed by the conquistadors, especially Hernando Cortes: ASIA ORIENTALIS (East Asia), *TEBETH* [Tibet], *CATHAY* and *MANGI* [Northern and Southern China] are mixed in with *HISPANIA NOVA* [New Spain], *MESSIGO R[EGIO]* [Mexico], and *THEMISTITAN* [Tenochtitlan, i.e., Mexico City]. Likewise Ptolemy's easternmost city of *Cattigara* [probably Ha Tien or Oc Eo in Vietnam] appears on the 1523 Schöner's gores and the *Gilt* globe in what is now Ecuador, again in an attempt to reconcile the Ptolemaic tradition with the new discoveries. Possibly it was this cartographic relocation of *Cattigara* to western South America that spurred Francisco Pizarro's 1524, 1526 and 1532-1533 expeditions to Peru.

Ironically, the new American discoveries are generally depicted more accurately on the *Gilt* globe than the supposedly long-known Ptolemaic lands. For example, the eastern coast of the Americas is very recognizable, while Sumatra-labeled *Taprobana* is the wrong shape and orientation.

While the *Gilt* globe is undated, and the identities of both its cartographer and its engraver are unknown, the latest geographic information recorded appears to be the

inscription *Terra Francesca Nuper Lostrata* [Francis Land, lately found] on what is now the east coast of the United States, bestowed by Giovanni da Verrazzano in his 1523-1524 expedition from France, and apparently first depicted on the 1527 manuscript map of that expedition by Visconte Maggiolo (#340). The lack of any detail of Peru suggests that Pizzaro's expeditions, the first news of which reached Spain in 1528 and then spread rapidly into Germany and Italy, were as yet unknown. Thus the globe appears to date from 1527-1529.

As mentioned, the globe bears neither a date, name of maker, place of construction, dedication, nor coat of arms, and is unmounted, hanging by a string passed through a hole pierced from pole to pole. The name *De Bure Globe* is derived from a former owner of the 19th century, the *Paris Gilt Globe* label results from its present residence and its very bright and gilt surface. Henry Harrisse reports a lesser known label of *Burton Globe*, also from a former owner who in 1836 purchased it from De Bure for 48 francs. It currently resides in the Geographical Department of the Paris National Library (No. 387 bis).

If it might, for the moment, be assumed that the *Gilt Globe* was from the year 1527, it would have a claim to the earliest known derived cartographical productions to carry on the *Verrazzanian* coastal conception. A description of some of its features is of interest. Its American coastline depicts without question the Verrazzano exploration of 1524, but without the large false sea (#347). It displays a coast running uninterruptedly north by east from the tip of Florida to about 60° N where it makes a virtual right-angled change of direction, showing thereafter a long coast stretching almost due east. The apex of this angle lies within an indentation that suggests a river mouth, while in the sea to



the south of that feature are placed two sizable islands. Westward of the north by east coast and well in the interior is the legend *Terra Francesca nuper lustrata* [the Land of Francis lately explored]. This legend represents a grouping of words that strongly indicates at least an acquaintance of the globe maker with Maggiolo's map of 1527 (#340), or with a derivative of it. Vesconte de Maiollo/Maggiolo had been influenced in his turn either by a lost map made by the explorer Verrazzano, or by the latter's own statement in the *Cellere Codex* annotation in which he wrote of this area that *all the land we found was called Francesca after our Francis*. Jacques Cartier explored those shores in 1534; but if the words *nuper lustrata* [recently toured] did refer to his first voyage, the Pacific coast in this most elaborate and detailed globe, would, like the *Ribeiro* 1529 map (#346) and others anterior to 1534, mention *Tumbez* [Peru], a country from which

Francisco Pizarro had brought to Spain, in the spring of 1528, with most marvelous accounts of vases of solid gold that were immediately printed in Germany and Italy. It should be noted that the designation of *Francesca*, as applied to the present site of New England, or of New York, was inscribed on maps, and adorned with a French flag, seven years at least before the first expedition of Cartier. *Nuper lustrata*, therefore according to Harrisse, applies to a French exploration of the northeast coast of America, accomplished before 1527. This exploration can only be the transatlantic voyage of Verrazzano, as no other at or prior to that period under the French flag is known. Nor would the mere fishing expeditions of Normandy or Breton have been acknowledged on maps by a display of the royal standard of France, particularly across the mainland.

The great land area running to the east from the right-angled junction bears the legend *Baccalearum Reg.* It has been assumed that the river mouth where the north by east coast meets the east-running coast is New York Bay, while *Baccalearum Reg.* is the long coast traversed by Verrazzano from that point to Cape Breton. The coastline thus delineated ends with *C. Rasum* [Cape Race], the easternmost tip of Newfoundland. There is nothing in Verrazzano's report to Francois I to suggest an extension beyond Cape Breton, though it seems clear from this source that he took his homeward departure from Cape Race.

Across the South American continent there is found inscribed *America inventa 1497*, which betrays the direct influence of the accounts of the four voyages of Amerigo Vespucci, as published by Martin Waldseemüller in his *Cosmographiae Introductio* at St. Die in Lorraine in 1507 (#310). What corresponds now with the Peruvian region, exhibits also only one name: *Cattigora Prov.*, which the cartographer doubtless imagined to be American, as is seen in the word *Prov[incia]* added by him, but which is only a remnant of the Ptolemaic nomenclature.

The voyage of Magellan is depicted with a thread-like itinerary, on which, south of Madagascar, is inscribed: *Illa linea ex Sibilla dvicia hispanorum navigationem astwndit.*

The Gulf of Mexico is called *Sinvs S. Michaelis*, and the Caribbean Sea, *Mare herbidium*, evidently on account of the floating beds of seaweeds found in those regions, and already indicated on that sea by Juan de la Cosa (#305), under the designation of *Sato de uerbos*. The course of the Amazon River is traced to a very long distance, and made to issue in several wide streams from a range of high mountains. To the south, a continuous belt of Antarctic lands encompasses the South Pole, and bears the inscription *Regio Patalis*.

A feature to be noted particularly in this globe is the joining of the New World discoveries with Asia, north of the equator, precisely as they appear on the diminutive hemispheres of Franciscus Monachus (#337), and as has been inferred from Schöner's description of his own globe of 1523 (#328), initiated in the latter. This resemblance makes it incumbent on the scholar to ascertain the origin of that peculiar configuration in the *Gilt Globe*. In other words, was the globe, now lost, which Schöner constructed in 1523 (#328) the prototype of the *Gilt Globe*?

Harrisse believes that the *Gilt Globe* is a derivative either of Schöner's globe of 1523, or of one which was constructed by him soon after that date. His opinion is based upon the perfect resemblance existing between the configurations of the *Gilt Globe* and those on Schöner's globe of 1533 (#328), which Harrisse assumes to be mainly a repetition of the lost globe of 1523. Another reason is that the nomenclature on the *Gilt Globe* is also almost identical with that of Schöner's globe of 1533, from *Terra florida* to the *Regio Patalis* (#328). The difference exists only in the names of the northeast coast, where the *Lusitana Germanic* nomenclature from *Florida* to *Baccalaos* is no longer to be seen on the Schöner globe of 1533. It is this omission that prompts one to look for the prototype of the *Gilt Globe* in an early derivative of Schöner's globe of 1523, rather than in his globe of 1533 itself. The reason is that, when constructing the globe of 1523, Schöner gives us clearly to understand that his new geographical ideas were limited to the regions south of the Tropic of Cancer, and in the west, where he thought that America was joined to Asia; thus making the two worlds only one continental landmass. This, necessarily, led him to connect, on the Atlantic side, the vast countries which he had theretofore depicted as separate, and to set forth an unbroken line of coasts from Labrador to the Straits of Magellan. But he had no reason, in 1523, for modifying the *Lusitano Germanic* nomenclature inscribed along the northeastern section. The probability is, therefore, that his globe of 1523 exhibited the configurations and names which we see on the northeast coast of America on the globe of 1533, but that it maintained the *Cantinean* nomenclature already existing on all of his former globes, which, for motives as yet unexplained, he omitted on his globe of 1533, preferring to delineate a nameless coast.

Be that as it may, the prototype of the *Gilt Globe* dates from about the year 1527, as can be seen from the reference to discoveries accomplished by the French on the northeast coast of America, and which have been shown to be the results of Verrazzano's voyage. The *Gilt Globe* became the progenitor of an important series of globes and cordiform maps, such as Schöner's globe of 1533 (#354), the *Nancy Globe* of 1535 (#353), the *Paris Wooden Globe* of 1535 (#357), and the single cordiform map of Orontius Finaeus (#356). In all of these "derivatives", in their overall aspect, North America is an integral part of Asia, forming a vast nonexistent continent that is best designated as *Amer-Asia*. As with the *Gilt Globe*, the Atlantic coastline of this continent shows the continuity and general features of North America from Florida to Cape Breton, and the Newfoundland area as traversed and recorded by Verrazzano in 1524, omitting, again, any indication of the false *Verrazzanian Sea*. Their makers could not, of course, reconcile the existence of a great gulf giving access to *Cathay* with the fact that *Cathay* was shown on their productions as an area west of Florida and integral with it, accessible by overland journey from the Atlantic, or more easily, by sea from the Gulf of Mexico. Though they showed the Verrazzano coast they had misunderstood its significance in world geography. Verrazzano had believed and affirmed that his new land was in no sense a part of the Asian continent. The anonymous globe makers, as well as Franciscus Monachus, Orontius Fineaus, and others of the period, presented a direct contradiction to his conclusion as to the separateness of the continents.

The workmanship and gilding of this globe is excellent, and such as might have been executed in Italy, France, or Germany, during the first half of the 16th century but from the formation of the letters, which, as has been mentioned, were punched, and not engraved, scholars are unable to state positively where it was constructed. A *lapsus* from the engraver, however, permits us to consider the globe as the work of a German artist. All the names and legends are in the Latin language, with these three exceptions: where we should read, *Aquae Pannanicae*, *Brunsviga* and *Vindobona*, the cosmographer has unconsciously caused the artist to inscribe, in German: *Baden*, *Braunschweig*, and *Wien*.

Location: Bibliothèque nationale de France, département Cartes et plans, GE A-333 (RES)

Size: 23 cm diameter

References:

*Barber, P., *Mapping Our World Terra Incognita To Australia*, pp.72-73.

*Harrisse, H., *Discovery of North America*, pp. 562-568.

Wroth, L.C., *The Voyages of Giovanni da Verrazzano, 1524-28*, pp. 180-182.

*Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of the World*, pp.79-81, Plate 63.

*Whyte. Brendan, "Reconciling Columbus and Ptolemy", *Mapping Our World, Terra Incognita to Australia*.

*illustrated



*Facsimile produced by Dr. D. W. Larson, Emeritus Professor
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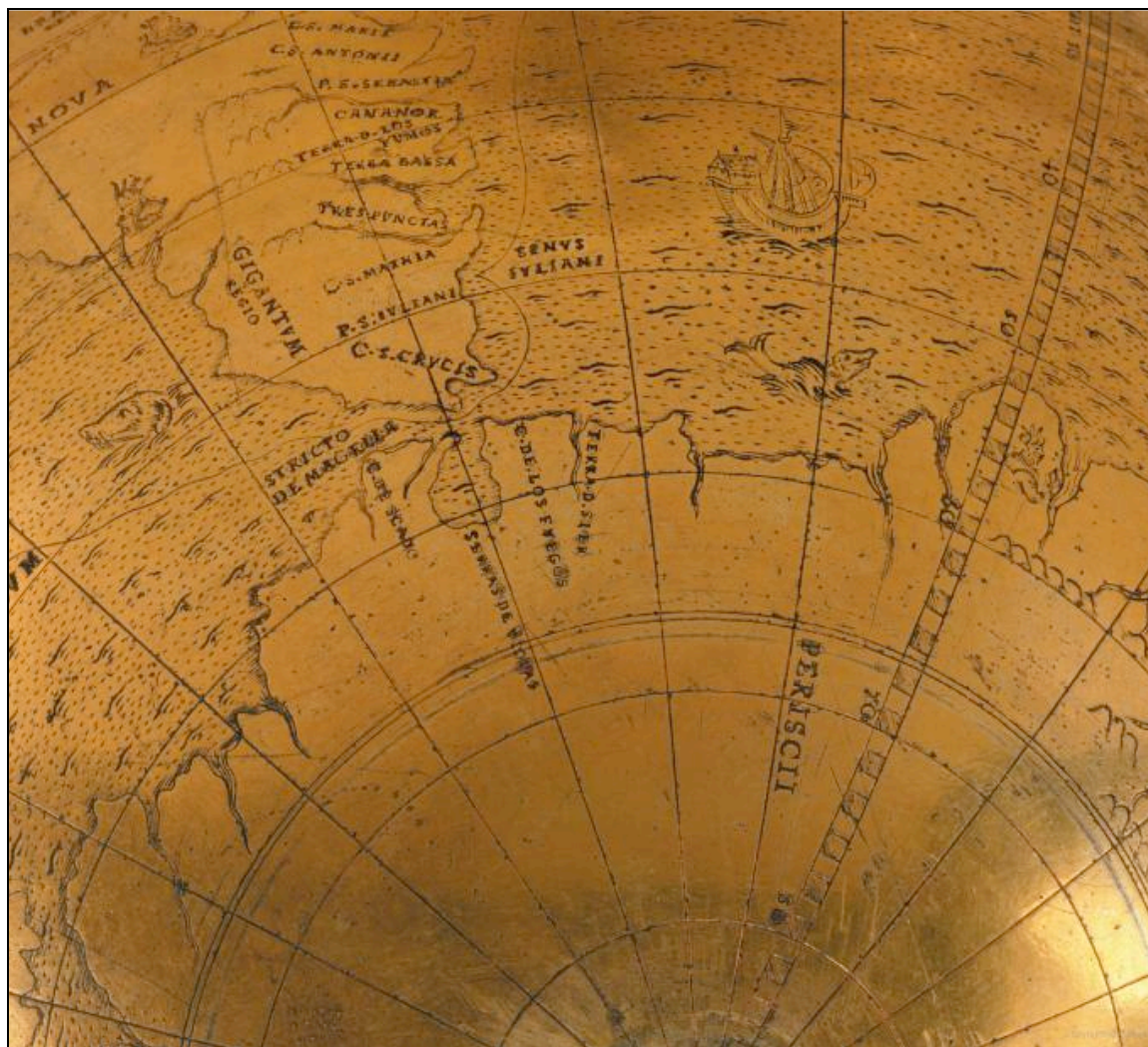
Detail: the Caribbean area and North America



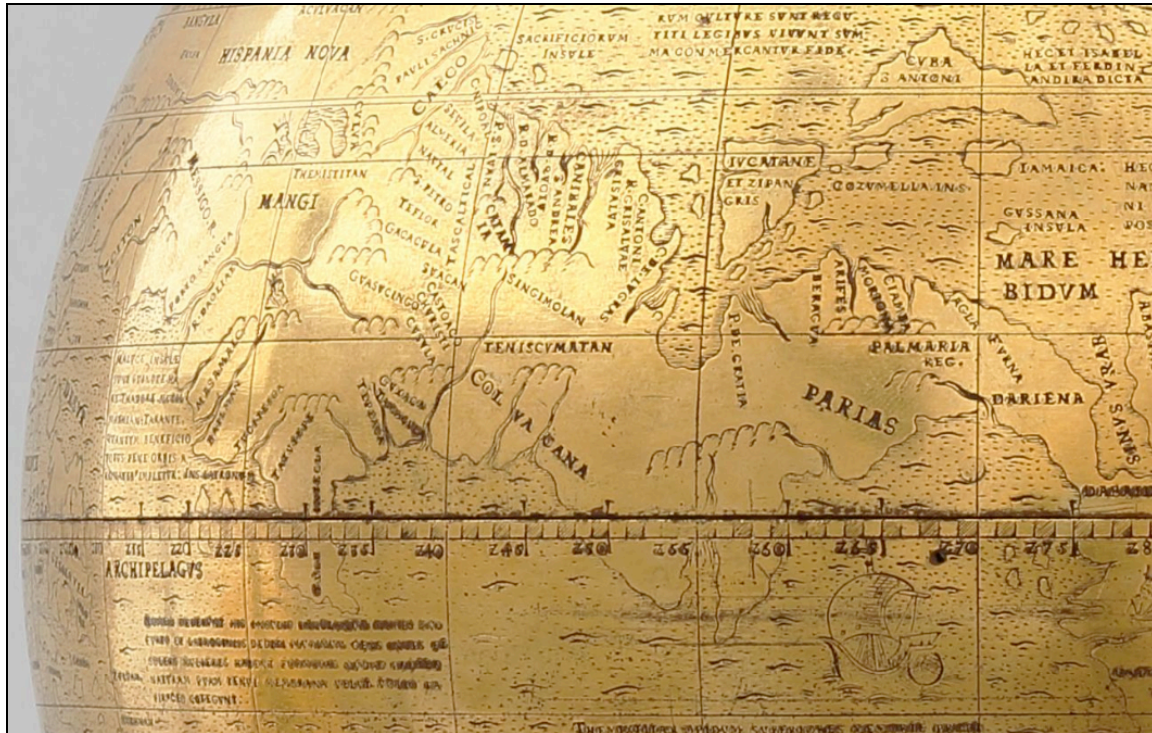
Detail: North America



Detail: South America



Detail: The tip of South America and Antarctica



Detail: showing the Isthmus of Panama merging with the Asian continent [Mangi]





*A drawing of the Western Hemisphere on the Gilt Globe.
Note the joining of the New World discoveries with Cathay (China) and the display of Magellan's
historic circumnavigation. From Harrisse*

The following anonymous gores, to be found in the Württembergische Landesbibliothek in Stuttgart, were incorrectly deduced by F.C. Wieder (*Monumenta Cartographica*) to be those representing Schöner's lost globe of 1523. The letters *PERISCII* printed across the Antarctic in the region of the prime meridian were interpreted as meaning "per [by] I Sch[öner]", a supposition later retracted.

The gores nevertheless are of considerable interest because of their affinity to the unsigned and undated gilt *Paris Gilt/De Bure* globe in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. They are carefully and elegantly engraved on copper and represent a large globe 35 cm in diameter. As printed on four separate sheets, gores 4 and 7 (counting eastward from the gore containing the British Isles) have been transposed. Their style and the features portrayed are consistent with a date of around 1535 and with a south German source, possibly Nüremberg. The craftsman-artist could well be from the school of Schöner, a likely candidate being Georg Hartmann who was active in Nüremberg at that time.

Magellan's circumnavigation is marked as a line across the gores, which portray the Moluccas and Pacific Ocean in relation to the old and new worlds explored up to that time. The west coast of central and south America is well defined, probably more by guesswork than actual report: the straits of Magellan are so named as is the sea *Mare Magellanicum* to the east. America is still joined to Asia and in the process Japan — shown clearly as a midway island on many earlier maps — is now omitted, although another island *Iucatane Zipangris* is placed in the Caribbean just off Mexico. To the south, a huge southern continent is hypothesized, even more extensive than that appearing on earlier globes or maps such as those by Schöner or Monachus. This land is marked *Terra Australis Recenter Inventa At Nondum Plene Cognita* [Southern Land recently discovered but not yet fully explored], perhaps recording Portuguese discoveries that may have taken place in the 1520s.

On North America is the reference *Terra francesca nuper lustrata*. Unless it is postulated that the "French lands" were claims following early excursions of Breton fishermen, this inscription is either a report following the voyage of Verrazzano who returned to Europe in July 1524 or a reference to recent Dieppe voyages in the Newfoundland region. The earliest map in which a similar inscription occurs is that of Maggiolo in 1527 (#340). The gores here described are tentatively dated c. 1535; they could be earlier but are unlikely to be as early as 1523-24 as stated by F.C. Wieder in *Monumenta Cartographica*, M. Nijhoff, The Hague, 1925-33.









