Title: Americae sive quartae orbis partis nova et exactissima descriptio / autore Diego Gutiérro Philippi Regis Hisp. etc. Cosmographo Hiero. Cock excude 1562; Hieronymus Cock excude cum gratia et priuilegio 1562.

Date: 1562

Author: Diego Gutiérrez, fl. 1554-1569.

Description: In 1562 Diego Gutiérrez, a Spanish cartographer from the respected Casa de la Contratación, and Hieronymus Cock, a noted engraver from Antwerp, collaborated in the preparation of a spectacular and ornate map of what was then referred to as the fourth part of the world, America. It was the largest engraved map of America up to that time.

Substantial mystery surrounds this map more than four hundred years after its creation. Confusion over its authorship, the location of its printing, and the reasons even for its preparation remains. The fact that only two known copies of this printed map are extant, one located in the Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.) and the other preserved in the British Library (London) no doubt contributes to our lack of knowledge about this valuable and authoritative depiction of Spanish dominion in its new world, America.

Entitled Americae sive quartae orbis partis nova et exactissima descriptio. Auctore Diego Gutierrez Philippi Regis Hisp. etc. Cosmographo. Hiero Cock Excude. 1562, [Entitled part of the new and the most exact description of America or of the fourth of the world. Author Diego Gutierrez Philip King Schouten, etc. Geographer Hieronymus Cock executed in 1562] the map depicts the eastern coast of North America, all of Central and South America, and portions of the western coasts of Europe and Africa. While only a longitude scale appears, it is clear that the map covers an area bounded between 0° and 115° W longitude west of Greenwich, and 57° N and 70° S latitude. The longitude scale uses Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, as its prime meridian, and the east-west range is from 15° E to 115° W longitude — roughly from London to Baja California. While a latitude scale does not appear, the Equator and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn are clearly shown and measurements between these fixed latitudes can assist in determining distances for the entire map.

Six engraved sheets are neatly joined to form a single map that measures 93 by 86 cm. Because this map ends abruptly on the east and the west and the ornamental border on the Library of Congress copy appears only at the top and the bottom of the map, one might believe that a world map was planned, of which only the American part was completed. An ornate decorative border forty millimeters wide surrounds the map section on the British Library copy. The top and bottom borders were clearly printed as part of the map section, but the left and right borders, identical in pattern, style, and material, are pasted on. By contrast, the Library of Congress copy has the border only on the top and bottom edges, leading some to speculate that mapmaker intended to extend it east and west, perhaps even to cover the entire world. The presence of the side borders on the British Library copy makes this possibility unlikely.

However, this map contains a unique title identifying America as the fourth part of the world. It seems logical that only a map of the Western Hemisphere was intended and rendered. It is apparent that one of the intentions in preparing the map was to define clearly Spain’s America for the other European powers who might have designs on the region.
The map provides a richly illustrated view of an America filled with images and names that had been popularized in Europe following Columbus’ 1492 voyage of discovery. Images of parrots, monkeys, mermaids, fearsome sea creatures, cannibals, Patagonian giants, and an erupting volcano in central Mexico complement the numerous settlements, rivers, mountains, and capes named. According to Ruth Putnam, in California: The Name (Berkeley, 1917), the Gutiérrez map contains one of the earliest references to California, for on it C. California is located on the southern tip of Baja California. The map correctly recognizes the presence of the Amazon River system, other rivers of South America, Lake Titicaca, the location of Potosí and Mexico City, Florida and the greater southeastern part of the United States, and myriad coastal features of South, Central, North, and Caribbean America. It was to be the largest printed Spanish map of America to appear before the late 18th century.

There are three coats of arms on the Gutiérrez map: in the lower right, in the Atlantic Ocean east of Argentina is the coat of arms of the crown of Portugal, and Portuguese interests in India are noted in the Eastern Atlantic La Flota De Portugal Que Va Par Calicute along with a fleet of ships. In the southeastern and southwestern parts of what is now the United States are two coats of arms: the one on the left is that of the Spanish Habsburg Empire; to its right is that of the French crown. Gutiérrez’s Americae is an official map, recognizing both Philip II, King of Spain from 1556 to 1598, and his half-sister Margarita de Parma, Regent of the Netherlands from 1559 to 1562. Princess Margarita’s coat of arms is incomplete on both examples. On the Library of Congress copy, the left section (Parma) has six fleur-de-lis, but neither the alternating dark/light horizontal bands in the center section (Austria) nor the narrower diagonal strips in the right section (Old Burgundy) have been darkened. The middle and right sections of the coat of arms on the British Library copy have also been left undarkened, but the field of six fleur-de-lis in the Parma section has been cut out and replaced by a patch of blank paper. This paper has aged differently than the paper on which the map was printed and is now a slightly different shade of white. In the upper left, in what is now the western United States, two coats of arms appear under a winged Victory flying a banner that proclaims nec spe nec metu [neither hope nor fear].

The following inscription (in Latin on the map) gives evidence, seventy years after Columbus’ historic voyage, of the popular belief that Americus Vespucius discovered America in 1497: This fourth part of the world remained unknown to all geographers until the year 1497, at which time it was discovered by Americus Vespucius serving the King of Castile, whereupon it also obtained a name from the discoverer.

The map has been used as evidence in two South American boundary disputes. It was reproduced in part in Frontières entre le Brésil et la Guyane Française. Mémoire présenté par les États Unis de Brésil. Atlas (Paris, 1899) [Border between Brazil and French Guiana. Submission by the United States of Brazil. Atlas] and Juicio de límites entre el Perú y Bolivia. Prueba peruan a presentada al gobierno de la República Argentina por Víctor M. Maurtua. Atlas (Barcelona, 1906) [Judgment and boundaries between Peru and Bolivia. Evidence presented to the Peruvian government of Argentina by Victor M. Maurer]. A tracing of it was made in the 19th century by Johann Georg Kohl for his hand-copied collection of maps in European libraries and archives for the study of the discovery, exploration, and mapping of North America, now in the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress’ copy of the Gutiérrez map was formerly in the collection of the Duke of Gotha in Germany. Sold at a 1932 auction in Münich, it was
subsequently acquired by an American book dealer who sold it to Lessing J. Rosenwald, the well-known collector of illustrated books. The Gutiérrez map was among the items received when Mr. Rosenwald gave a portion of his collection to the Library of Congress in 1949. Below is the Library of Congress copy.

Diego Gutiérrez was a cosmographer at the Casa de la Contratación, in its office of Pilot Major. His father, also named Diego Gutiérrez, was the head of a Sevillean family map- and instrument-making business from the early part of the 16th century until his death in 1554. The elder Diego Gutiérrez, also a map maker of note, became associated with the work of the Casa de la Contratación and catered to the navigational information needs of navigators and pilots engaged in that extraordinary time of exploration and
travel to America, practically at its inception in the early part of the 16th century. The son Diego Gutiérrez had been named cosmographer in the Casa de la Contratación by a royal appointment on October 22, 1554, following the death of his father in January 1554. He received a salary of 6,000 maravedis because of his known ability to make navigational charts and other nautical instruments. On the famous 1562 map of America he is identified as the Auctore Diego Gutiero Philippi Regis Hisp. Etc. [Diego Gutiérrez, cosmographer at the time of the reign of Philip II of Spain]. He served as a cosmographer in the Casa de la Contratación from 1554 to at least 1569, according to documents in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville. He was among a number of cartographers in the Casa de la Contratación known as cosmographers, including Alonso de Chaves (Pilot Major), Francisco Falero, Jerónimo de Chaves, Sancho Gutiérrez (Diego’s brother), and Alonso de Santa Cruz. Diego Gutiérrez was distinguished from the rest as oficial de hacer cartas de marear [an official who makes sea charts].

Diego’s brother, Sancho Gutiérrez, became a cosmographer in the Casa on May 18, 1553.

The father is the better known of the two Diegos, and many scholars, including Jose T Medina, Philip Burden, Carl Moreland, and David Bannister, attribute this map to him. Their premise is that the map was drawn sometime before his death but not engraved and printed until some eight years later. Burden in particular cites the lack of fresh cartographic information on the map as evidence of this delay in printing.

The most convincing piece of evidence relating to authorship seems to be the map’s title line. Diego Gutiérrez is recognized as cosmographer to Philip II. Philip became king in 1556 at the abdication of his father, Charles V. Because the elder Diego died two years prior to Philip’s ascendency, we believe that the title refers to the son. However, this interpretation does not rule out the possibility that the younger Diego, in working with the engraver of the map, Hieronymus Cock, transmitted cartographic information derived from the work of his father.

Compounding the question of authorship is the lack of documentary evidence about the circumstances of the map’s publication. The 1562 date is clearly visible in the title as well as in a smaller cartouche positioned in the lower left. However, in both places the numerals have been written in a much different style and in a much finer hand, as if added as an afterthought, possibly long after the map was drawn and engraved. Moreover, the variations between the two extant copies give rise to the possibility that the project was abandoned before the map was officially published. Because neither copy is complete, we speculate that both are proof copies. When or why they were edited as they were remains a mystery, but two explanations seem possible. Perhaps the Library of Congress copy, lacking the complete border, was the first assembled proof, and someone noted an error in the fleur-de-lis on the partially completed coat of arms of Princess Margarita. Subsequently, the second proof (the British Library copy) was completed with the erroneous fleur-de-lis cut out but the left and right borders present to give the patron an idea of how the finished version would look. Alternatively, someone may have decided to replace the coat of arms with another, and the British Library copy was awaiting the details of the replacement. In either event, although it is hard to imagine why such a magnificent production was apparently halted, no evidence points to other printed copies of all six sheets.

The engraver of the map, Hieronymus Cock, was a Flemish artist of recognized talent who worked in Antwerp. He has been considered one of the most important engravers and printmakers in Europe in the 16th century. In the second half of the 16th
century, Antwerp became the major center for the production of prints and books in the Low Countries. Cock was the son of Jan Wellens or Willems, alias Cock, and had a brother, Mathias Cock; they were both noted painters. Born at Antwerp in 1510, Cock was admitted to the Guild of St. Luke as a master painter in 1545 and later engaged in engraving and print selling. Between 1546 and 1548 he studied in Rome, where he was influenced by the work of the noted artists and printmakers Antonio Salamanca and Antonio Lafrery. In Antwerp in 1548 Cock established the shop Aux Quatre Vents [To the Four Winds]. Between 1548 and the time of his death in 1570 he carried on a very successful business, popularizing art through his engravings of the finest works of the Dutch masters.

Cock engraved several maps, including those of Leiden (1550), Piedmont (1551), Sicily (1553), Turkey and Persia by Castaldo (1555), Siena (1555), Ostia (1557), an Antwerp bird’s-eye view (1557), Siege de Saint-Quentin (1557), Ypres (1562), Hableneuf (1563), Malta (1565), Bourgogne by Ferdinand de Launoy (1562), and the Holy Land by Petru Laicksteen (1562) in addition to the 1562 America map. He engraved several of the maps for Abraham Ortelius’ Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, published in 1570 by the Plantin Press in Antwerp and is cited in Ortelius’ Catalogus Auctorum Tabularum Geographicarum. His engravings also appeared in Jacob van Deventer’s Nederlansche Steden, Braun and Hogenberg’s Civitates Orbis Terrarum, and Sebastian Münster’s Cosmographia.

Facts concerning the distribution of the 1562 map of America or the number of copies prepared are not known. It would seem that a substantial number of copies of the map must have been printed since it was intended to define authoritatively boundaries of Spain’s sphere of influence in America while, simultaneously, recognizing the French and Portuguese presence. It is ironic that in the 1560s, following the issuance of the map, Spain was forced to reinforce its presence along the northern Atlantic coast in North America. In 1562 France began to colonize sites in what are now South Carolina and Florida, threatening Spain’s exclusive control in the area.

It is possible that the map was produced, at the request of official Spain, through Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle who was the Spanish negotiator of the April 3, 1559 Treaty of Cateau Cambresis. As was mentioned earlier, Granvelle was the patron of much of Cock’s printing in Antwerp. That treaty between France and Spain, and a separate one by the same name between France and England brought to a close nearly thirty years of constant warfare in Western Europe. And the recognition of Philip II on the map, to whom Gutiérrez was cosmographer, indicated that the map itself probably was prepared after 1556, when Charles V abdicated the throne in favor of Philip II and retired to the Monastery of Yuste in Extremadura. Charles died on September 21, 1558.

Those treaties contained the most comprehensive agreements drawn up before the Peace of Westphalia in the 17th century, thus effectively establishing legal and political status quo for Western Europe for ninety years. Concluded with the treaty was a French-Spanish agreement, namely the marriage of Elizabeth of Valois, daughter of Henry II, King of France, to Philip II in the summer of 1559. The marriage alliance between the two kingdoms is possibly an explanation for the very close positioning of the coats of arms of Spain and France on the Gutiérrez map.

One of the noteworthy omissions in the Gutiérrez map of America is the absence of the famous Line of Demarcation. This hypothetical vertical line in the Atlantic Ocean served as the division between Spanish and Portuguese possessions in America. West of the line were Spain’s areas of influence. In the Gutiérrez map the most prominent line of demarcation is not a vertical line but rather a parallel or horizontal line, representing the
Tropic of Cancer at $23^\circ\ 30'\ N$. One would have expected instead the parallel of Cape Bojador at $26^\circ\ N$, which passes south of the Canaries, and was used by Pope Martin V in the 15th century to grant exclusive privileges to the Portuguese southwards down the African coast, and by Pope Nicholas V in *Romanus Pontifex* (1455) and in all subsequent bulls on the subject of spheres of influence. But the latitudinal line mentioned in the 1559 *Treaty of Cateau Cambrésis* and prominently shown on the Gutiérrez map was that of the Tropic of Cancer.

But why was the famous vertical *Line of Demarcation*, that line separating Europe from America, not referred to in the *Treaty of Cateau Cambrésis* and on the map? Diplomatic documents after the 1559 treaty state simply that Spain’s sphere of influence is south of the Tropic of Cancer and west of the prime meridian. But not knowing what prime meridian creates a problem with ascertaining the location of the *Line of Demarcation*. Was it to be the line given in the Papal Bull of 1493 or that in the *Treaty of Tordesillas* of 1494; and for that matter which island in the Atlantic Ocean was to be used as the eastern terminus from which the distance to the *Line of Demarcation* was to be determined? There was no agreement upon which privilege was to be accepted, and even individual treaties remained unclear when references were made to the easternmost starting point, whether west of the meridian of Ferro or Pico in the Azores or one of the Cape Verde Islands.

In the 16th century, no one could determine longitudes across the oceans with more than a rough approximation of accuracy. From the outset of the diplomatic history of the Americas, it was concluded by diplomats, as well as distinguished Spanish jurists and theologians, that the Pope in Rome had no right to give away what did not belong to him, and that the only valid claim that Spain could assert to any part of America was to those areas it effectively occupied. In their 16th and 17th century relations with Spain, other European powers, with the exception of Portugal, recognized only one line, and that was the Tropic of Cancer. And Spain had chosen to use that line without regard for papal donations, for practical reasons. Navigators could easily ascertain the location of the Tropic of Cancer. What made it particularly useful was that Cancer ran through the Straits of Florida with the safest channel well on its Cuban, or southern, side. So no ship could enter West Indian or Caribbean waters, not even the Gulf of Mexico, without crossing the Tropic of Cancer. Spain was vitally interested in preserving the monopoly of its American trade and the safety of its silver and gold fleets. Until 1559 the only serious threat to its monopoly was France, and no sooner did French interlopers and corsairs begin to be a nuisance than measures began to be taken to pursue and eliminate them anywhere below the Tropic of Cancer. The normal relation between Spain and France, especially before 1559, had been war.

Above the Tropic of Cancer, Spain’s interests and ambitions were more limited. It at times laid claim, through expeditions and colonization attempts, to that area and its offshore islands on the grounds of Pope Alexander’s 1493 Bull. But its primary concern was to safeguard its treasure fleets and prevent the establishment of potentially hostile bases.

With the map and the *Treaty of Cateau Cambrésis*, Spain and France acknowledged areas of possession in America. At the time of the map the ill-fated French settlement of Nicolas de Villegaignon in Portugal’s Brazil, following France’s 1555 establishment of its *La France Antarctique* in Guanabara Bay, was under continuous attack by the Portuguese until it was removed in 1567. South of the Tropic of Cancer Spain had firm control in its America. But from the Florida Keys northward Spain had not effectively placed its flag.
In the 1560’s in present-day South Carolina and Florida, the most ambitious effort to test Spanish resolve occurred. In 1562 a new French colony was established in Florida under Jean Ribaut and René de Laudonnière only to be destroyed by the Spanish in 1565 with the subsequent establishment of the first permanent settlement in what is now the United States, Saint Augustine, as a protective station for the Spanish gold fleet returning from America to Spain.

The only other known map ascribed to either Diego, a manuscript of the Atlantic Ocean dated 1550 and signed Diego Gutiérrez, Cosmographer to His Majesty, is universally considered the work of the father; the son had no right to use that title until 1554. That map manifests a curious system of dual latitude scales, one 2° north of the other, that Gutiérrez used to correct for compass variation in northern latitudes, and as a result it has two equators and four tropic lines. This confusing device had been the subject of a bitter lawsuit between Gutiérrez and Pedro de Medina, author of the famous Art of Navigation, which resulted in a 1545 ruling expressly forbidding the use of the double-latitude scale on future maps, a ruling that apparently did not deter Gutiérrez. Unfortunately, except for the fact that both the 1550 manuscript map and the 1562 printed map derive from cartographic information collected by the same office, nothing ties them to the same mapmaker.

Despite the good relations established between Spain and France, the negotiators at Cateau Cambresis apparently reached an oral agreement that the treaty did not extend to non-European areas. Moreover, little on the map suggests an attempt to authoritatively settle territorial disputes in the New World. The map does use political names such as Tierra Francisca, Regio de Brasil, and Tierra Florida, but does not include boundaries, and the fonts show no more differentiation between these French, Portuguese, and Spanish colonies than is shown between the Spanish territories of La Nueva Galitia, Regio del Peru, and Nueva España.

As the primary repository of information about Spanish explorations, the Casa de la Contratacion produced charts made by pilots of their voyages and transferred them to the Carta Padron, or “the standard map of the world”. Virtually all of its cartographic output was in manuscript, relatively little of which has survived. The loss only underlines the importance of the 1562 map as a printed example of the Casa’s cartographic tradition.

Gutiérrez’s magnificent 1562 map of America was not intended to be a scientifically or navigationally exacting document, although it was of large scale and remained the largest map of America for a century. It was, rather, a ceremonial map, a diplomatic map, as identified by the coats of arms proclaiming possession. Through the map, Spain proclaimed to the nations of Western Europe its American territory, clearly outlining its sphere of control, not by degrees, but with the appearance of a very broad line for the Tropic of Cancer clearly drawn on the map.

The British Library acquired its copy around 1870 from Henry Stevens, and, as mentioned above, the copy in the Library of Congress was formerly in the collection of the Duke of Gotha, who sold it at auction in Munich in 1932. An American book dealer subsequently acquired it and sold it to Lessing J. Rosenwald, the well-known collector of illustrated books, who donated it to the library in 1948. In recent years, however, additional copies of the left-center sheet, which depicts Central America, have emerged. Philip Burden has reported that an unidentified map illustrated in No. 34 of the Map Collector’ Circle, provenance and current location unknown, is in fact the Central American plate, in black and-white and bearing the
An erroneous date of 1630. The Bibliothèque Nationale also has two copies of the same sheet in its collections. Neither is dated, and one is in black-and-white while the other has yellow, red, and green outline colors. Nothing more is currently known about either copy.

The appearance of these individual sheets only deepens the mystery surrounding the map. Unfortunately, the uncertainties about its author, printing history, and purpose have contributed to its relative obscurity. It deserves wider recognition and study. Only then will this magnificent and significant example of 16th century mapping enter its proper rank among the cartographic treasures from the early years of New World exploration.

**Locations:** From the Rosenwald Collection, Library of Congress, no. 1303. Call Number: G3290 1562 .G7 Vault Oversize Digital ID: g3290 ct000342

**Size:** Originally printed on 6 sheets; overall 93 x 86 cm., on sheet 100 x 102 cm

**Scale:** ca. 1:17,500,000

**References:**
*Hébert, J. and R. Pflederer, “Like No Other, the 1562 Gutiérrez Map of America”, *Mercator’s World*, Volume 5, Number 6, pp. 46-51.


Library of Congress website:
[http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3290.ct000342](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3290.ct000342)

**Detail:** off the eastern coast of South America, King Philip of Spain arriving at the New World
Detail: South America - cannibals
Americae sive quartae orbis partis nova
Detail: West Africa, an Indian rhinoceros mistakenly ended up in Africa
Like many other 15th and 16th century maps, the treacherous oceans are terrorized by an assortment of terrifying sea monsters, reflecting the fear of the unknown and uncharted waters. In the Atlantic Ocean, west of Ireland, a massive clawed creature lurks in the waves.

A flying fish can be spotted just below a ship battle in the lower right panel, while a strange-looking ape or monkey seems to be gnawing on its prey just west of the Canary Islands.
Detail: Gulf of California and Central America, showing the “C. California”, Mexico City [Temixltan (Tenochtitlan) in Lake Texcoco] and an erupting volcano
Mermaids luring the ships off the southwest coast of South America
Americae sive quartae orbis partis nova

Copy in the British Library