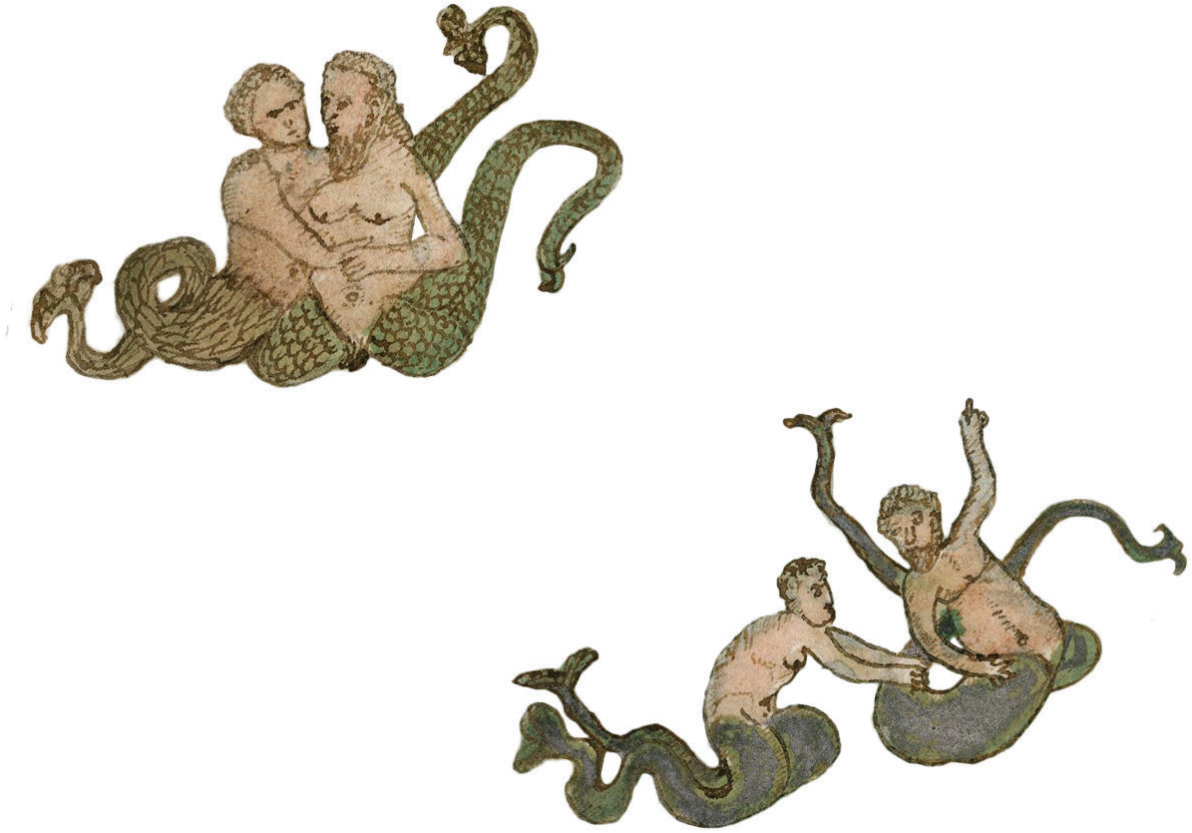
A Mind at Work

Urbano Monte's 60-Sheet Manuscript World Map



Stanford | LIBRARIES
DAVID RUMSEY MAP CENTER

BLR Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

A Mind at Work

Urbano Monte's 60-Sheet Manuscript World Map

Foreward by Barry Lawrence Ruderman

Introduction by David Rumsey

Essay by Dr. Katherine Parker

STANFORD LIBRARIES
DAVID RUMSEY MAP CENTER
RUMSEYMAPCENTER.STANFORD.EDU
DAVIDRUMSEY.COM

BARRY LAWRENCE RUDERMAN ANTIQUE MAPS
RAREMAPS.COM

This volume has been published in conjunction with the Barry Lawrence Ruderman Conference on Cartography held at the David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford University, from Thursday, October 19th through Saturday, October 21st, 2017

Catalog design by Alex Clausen

G. Salim Mohammed, Head and Curator
David Rumsey Map Center
Green Library
Stanford University
557 Escondido Mall; MC 6004
Stanford, CA 94305-6004

RUMSEYMAPCENTER.STANFORD.EDU

(650) 723 5100
GSALIM@STANFORD.EDU

Barry Ruderman
Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.
7463 Girard Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037

RAREMAPS.COM

(858) 551 8500
BLR@RAREMAPS.COM

Contents

Foreward

The Full Monte

A 60-sheet, sixteenth-century manuscript map of the world, three meters in diameter. These are cartographic superlatives generally reserved for the most famous and venerable institutions and the myth and legend of the lost monasteries and archives of prior centuries. YET, just weeks before the inaugural Barry Lawrence Ruderman Conference at the David Rumsey Map Center, we were holding in our hands just such an object. The scale of Urbano Monte's map was unimaginable, or, perhaps more accurately, something that could not be envisioned without help.

There was really only one solution. The 60 sheets had to be joined and the entire thing displayed as its maker intended. And there was only one person for the job—David Rumsey. Having borne witness to David's passion for digitizing other cartographic wonders, I was hopeful that he would embrace the idea of scanning Monte's lifework. The prospect of seeing the map on one of the massive digital displays at the Rumsey Map Center and broadly distributed for all to view was too enticing to ignore. Fortunately, after a brief phone conversation, David agreed, launching a frantic effort to scan and digitally join Monte's map for the conference.

Along the way, we learned a quite a bit about the map, and with the help of Urbano Monte scholar Dr. Annalisa D'Ascenso, the research and writing skills of Dr. Katie Parker and Alex Clausen, the advice, encouragement and translation skills of Franca Teglucci and Stefano Bifolco, and the technical wizardry of Brandon Rumsey, who worked tirelessly to scan and join the map, Monte's masterwork was revealed for the first time as it was intended, a 3 meter planisphere on the polar azimuthal projection. The single largest world map of the 16th century was finally a visual reality.

Along the way, we made several other discoveries, most of a logistical nature. Most notably, when considering the prospect of printing a full-sized copy of the finished product for display, we realized that the "Full Monte" was just over nine feet in diameter, taller than the ceilings of the Map Center. Logistical limitations aside, the realization of this project is testimony to the importance of the marriage of digital and analog, and the combining of the history of cartography with the scholars and technology of our modern age—a modest example of the sort of technical and cross-disciplinary collaboration which we hope the conference will promote and encourage.

Barry Ruderman

MARE OCEANO
MARE DEL NORT
MARE DE INDIA
MARE DEL SVR
PERV
Brasil
terra del fuego
cabo S. Agostin
SPAGNA
BARBARIA
NVMIDIA
NEGRI
CHINA
capo de bona speranza

Introduction

Urbano Monte's Remarkable World Map

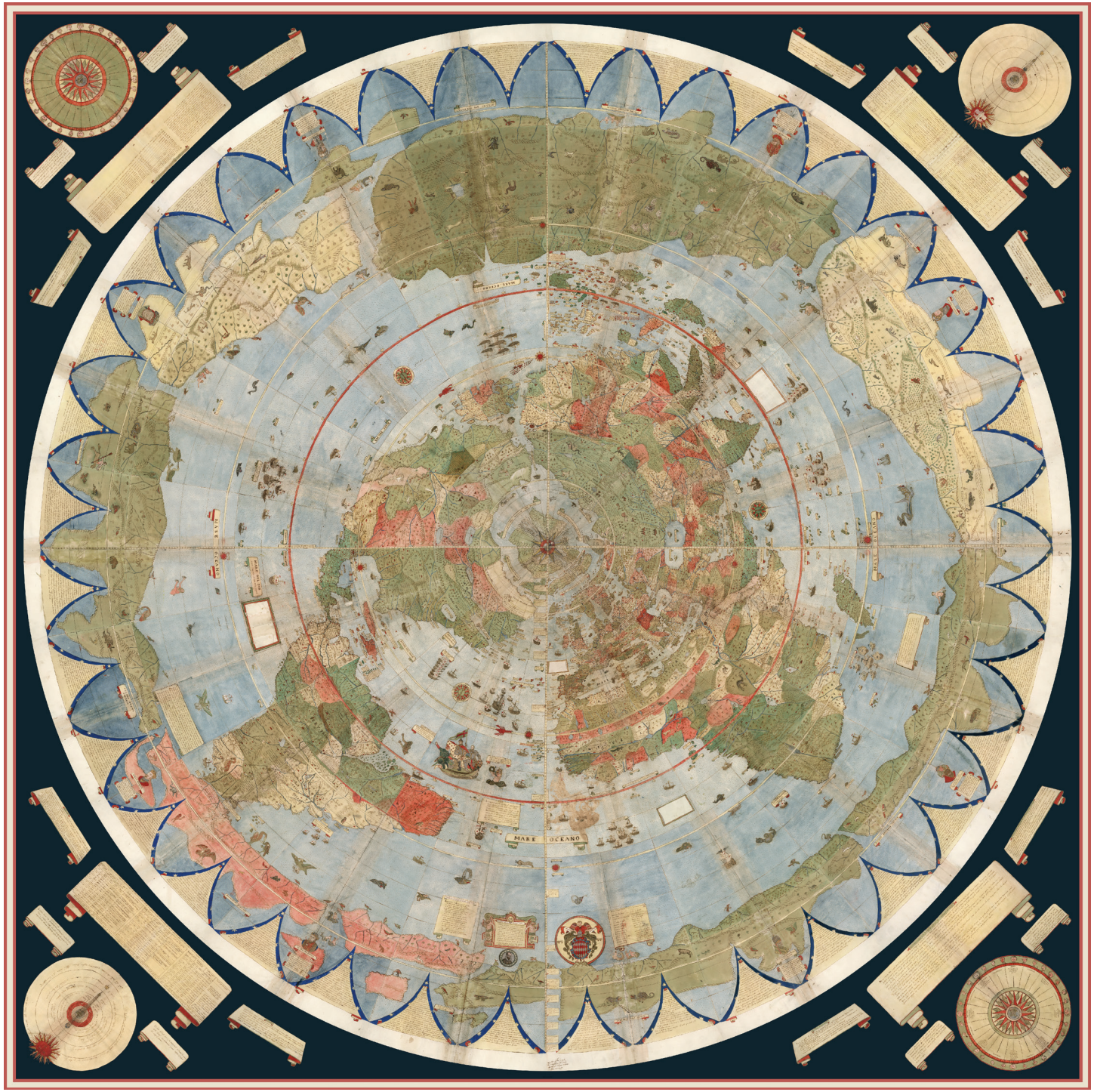
Urbano Monte's manuscript world map of 1587 reminds us of why historical maps are so important as primary resources: the north polar projection of his planisphere uses the advanced scientific ideas of his time; the artistry in drawing and decorating the map embodies design at the highest level; and the view of the world then gives us a deep historical resource with the listing of places, the shape of spaces, and the commentary interwoven into the map—science, art, and history all in one document.

Until now, Monte's manuscript map was seen as a series of 60 individual sheets. The only assembled version is the small, single-page key sheet of the series. Now that we have joined all 60 sheets digitally, we can appreciate in a new way the extraordinary accomplishment that Monte made. The assembled map, just over nine feet in diameter, is one of the largest—if not the largest—world map made in the sixteenth century. The degree of detail and decoration is stunning and the entire production is surely unique in the history of cartographic representation.

When we georeference Monte's map and then re-project it into the Mercator projection, we immediately understand why he used the north polar projection instead of Mercator's: Monte wanted to show the entire earth as close as possible to a three-dimensional sphere using a two-dimensional surface. His projection does just that, notwithstanding the distortions around the south pole. Those same distortions exist in Mercator's world map, and by their outsized prominence on Monte's map they gave him a vast area to indulge in all the speculations about Antarctica that proliferated in geographical descriptions in the sixteenth century. While Mercator's projection became standard in years to come due to its ability to accurately measure distance and bearing, Monte's polar projection gave a better view of the relationships of the continents and oceans. In the 20th century air age, the polar projection returned as a favored way to show the earth. Monte would have been pleased to see a modern version of his map used in the official emblem of the United Nations.

I am grateful to Barry Ruderman for bringing this important work to The David Rumsey Map Collection and thereby making it possible for me to add it to the David Rumsey Map Center at Stanford. Barry and I have collaborated for over 20 years in the process of building my map library and this work by Urbano Monte can now take its place as one of the jewels in the collection.

David Rumsey


MARE OCEANO

The First of Urbano Monte's Large Planispheres

The works of Urbano Monte (1544-1613) are little known within the history of cartography, an undeserved status based on the limited circulation of his planisphere and geographical treatise. That obscurity is now at an end because, for the first time, Monte's 60-sheet planisphere—the largest known early modern manuscript map of the world at roughly three meters in diameter—is available to the general public via the David Rumsey Map Collection (www.davidrumsey.com). Acquired from Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps, who also helped to catalogue the work, the Monte planisphere made its debut at the inaugural Barry Lawrence Ruderman Conference on Cartography held at the Rumsey Map Center, Stanford University, October 19-21, 2017.

Despite relative obscurity, Monte's surviving works represent some of the most dynamic products of the Renaissance in Northern Italy. The Milanese Monte, inspired by the visit of the first Japanese Embassy to Europe, which came to Milan in 1585, embarked on a twenty-year project to synthesize and consolidate geographic knowledge of the entire world in four volumes. Intended for students and scholars, Monte's Trattato Universale, particularly the third volume containing the large planisphere, offers a window into the mind of a transitional figure in cartography; although influenced by the geographic theories of the likes of Ptolemy, Monte took bold steps away from the Ptolemaic projections and relied almost entirely on contemporary sources, including Fine, Mercator, Ortelius, and Gastaldi.

The planisphere discussed here is the earliest of the three surviving planispheres developed by Monte from 1585 to 1604. This 60-sheet masterpiece, initially completed ca. 1587, is filled with cartographic delights and also shows the rapidly evolving geography of the late sixteenth century. Although first chronologically, it is the last of Monte's works to be to be available for research and has never been studied in depth. The digitization of the planisphere is an opportunity, therefore, for scholars and map enthusiasts to engage with Monte's geographic ideas and to integrate his works into the larger context of Italian mapmaking in the late sixteenth century.


Qua sopra sono le hore della notte de nouembre
Qua sopra sono le hore della notte di ottobre
Qua sopra sono le Hore de la notte di settembre nel quale si fa l'equinotio Autumnale alli 15.
Qua sopra sono le Hore de la notte di Agosto.
Qua sopra sono le Hore de la notte di Luglio.
Qua sopra sono Hore della notte. di Giugno.
EVROPA
ASIA
AFRICA
Hore del giorno del mese di Giugno nel quale si fa l'equinotio estiuo alli 13.
Qua sopra sono le Hore del giorno del mese di Luglio
Qua sopra sono le Hore del giorno del mese di Agosto
Qua sopra sono le hore del giorno del mese di settembre nel quale si fa equale a la notte.
Qua sopra sono le hore del giorno di ottobre
Hore del giorno de nouembre

Urbano Monte in his time and in scholarship

Monte's family had lived in and around Milan for centuries and they held several administrative titles in the Lombardy capital. His most famous kinsman was Cesare Monti, Archbishop of Milan from 1632 to 1650. The son of Giovanni Battista and Madonna Angela de Menclozzi, Urbano Monte had two younger brothers and also grew up with several of his cousins in the familial home in Milan. At age 35, Monte married Margarita Niguarda, who was 18 at the time. They had four sons and one daughter: Giovanni Ambrogio, Giovanni Francesco, Giovanni Battista, Giuseppe, and Catarina Angela.

Thanks to his family's status and affluence, Monte had a leisurely life; he never held public office and was able to pursue his scholarly interests. His library was renowned locally. At age 41, his interests turned definitively to geography, a topic that would occupy him for the rest of his life. The ambition of his later years was to publish his treatise with its planisphere, but a falling out with his eldest son, and the resulting court cases over money and inheritance, left him unable to finish the task. The only printed version of the planisphere remains in a proof state, testament to Monte's ambitions and family troubles.

Scholars have only fleetingly focused on Monte and his works. Paolo Revelli published a study in 1929, as did Roberto Almagià in 1941. More recently, Annalisa D'Ascenzo has offered a refreshing new look that examines the then-known examples (60-sheet manuscript planisphere at Biblioteca del Seminario Arcivescovile di Milano in Venegono Inferioro; 64-sheet printed proof copy at Biblioteca Ambrosiana) in her 2012 book, Cultura geografica e cartografia in Italia alla fine del Cinquecento: Il Trattato universale di Urbano Monte. Dr. D'Ascenzo is currently expanding her study based on the new information now available in the Rumsey example.


Tutte le parte di essa circonferenza
Polo Antartico, quale ponte reducendosi insieme
imaginar
o' imaginandosi
che fano
parimente
le ponte
Et è fatto
Doppo
VRBANO . TERTIO . DA . MONTE . AN . 43

Tutte le parte di essa circonferenza vi sia
Polo Antartico, quale ponte reducendosi insieme
o' imaginandosi di redurle, si puo imaginar
parimente che fariano l'effetto istesso che fano
le ponte, quale finiscono al Polo Artico
Et è fatto da vrbano Monte, l'ano 1587
Doppo la Natiuità di nostro signore
VRBANO ✻ MONTE ✻ D'ANNI ✻ XXXXV

The Rumsey Example

This particular example of Monte's work is, as previously mentioned, the earliest of the three surviving planispheres. It consists of 60 map sections on paper bound together as an atlas. When joined together, the pieces form a massive planisphere stretching three meters across and representing the entire world as it was known to Monte in a polar azimuthal projection. There is also a double page world map (key sheet) and 13 double pages of tables of latitudes and longitudes, distances, temperatures, prevailing winds, eclipses, etc.

There are two portraits of Monte included, one when he was 43 years old (1587) and the other when he was 45 (1589). Additionally, there are cut-out cartouches and marginal notes on several of the maps that suggest that this was a working document, first completed in or around 1587 and added to over the following years. As compared to the other 60-sheet example, held at the Biblioteca del Seminario Arcivescovile di Milano, it is less polished and more provisional. Certain features were added in at least two hands and at different times, suggesting this was the first planisphere completed by Monte, while the Seminario example was most likely a second, redrafted version of this first working example. This planisphere is the rough draft of the world as Monte understood it.

The Rumsey example was sold at Sotheby's in 1981 to the noted Amsterdam publisher Nico Israel and subsequently was listed by H. P. Kraus in his 1983 catalogue. At the time it was sold at Sotheby's, it was the subject of an article in the Map Collector by J. J. S. Goss. It was offered again by Bonham's in 2012 and acquired by David Rumsey in 2017 from Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps. Rumsey has made it available with scans of each of the individual map sections and with a digital reconstruction of what the sections would look like joined. The images were introduced at the inaugural Barry Lawrence Ruderman Conference on Cartography (October 19-21, 2017)—the first time the planisphere had been presented as Monte intended in centuries.

The key sheet and subsequent map sections are bright with original color. A glance at the key sheet, which hints at what the planisphere looks like when assembled, also shows how Monte synthesized the various geographic works he read to produce his own image of the world. The globe radiates from the North Pole. Due to the projection, the continents seem to cluster at the center, while the seas in the southern hemisphere are open. At the outer reaches of the ring are eight islands, stretched into mammoth semi-continents thanks again to the projection.

These islands reveal some of the sources and ideas that were circulating when Monte drew this map in the 1580s. The largest of the islands is dually labeled Brasielia and Nova Guinea, reflecting the relatively little knowledge Europeans had about the extent and location of the Americas and the Pacific islands. Another of this southern ring of islands is the fiery Tierra del Fuego, which was first sighted by Magellan during his voyage of 1519 to 1522.

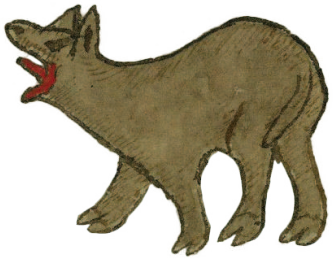
A third island is Terra de Lucach, a name recognizable to anyone who had read Marco Polo's Travels. Lucach, along with Beach and Maletur were regions in Java. The conflation of Java with the southern continent stemmed from a mistake earlier in the sixteenth century. Initially, Polo used Arabic usage of Java Major for Java and Java Minor for Sumatra. After a printing mistake made Java Minor seem the largest island in the world in the 1532 editions of Polo's Travels (Paris and Basel), mapmakers start-

MARE DEL NORTH GIACIATO
MARE DEL NORTH GIACIATO
TERRA INCOGNITA
ANIAN PR.
QUIVIRA PROVINCIA
LAGO CONIBAS
NOVA FRANCIA
APALCHEN
AVACAL
LAGO FAGA
CANADA PROV.
TERRA DE NOREMBERGA
TOPIRA PROV.
CIVOLA PR. HORA GRANATA
XALISCO PR. NOVA GALITIA
NUEVA HISPANIA
MAR VERMEIO
MARE DEL SVR
MARE DEL NORT
MARE DE LA NOVAFRANCIA
GOLFO DI CAST
TERRA DEL LABORADOR
LA FLORIDA
GOLFO MEXICANO
ISOLE

ed to make a southern landmass to accommodate Java Minor, Beach, Lucach, and Maletur.

The key sheet, while informative, is relatively unadorned. The map sections, by comparison, are filled with decorative flourishes that tell the history and myth of the places as Monte knew them. The 60 sheets form five rings. Certain geographic features are marked with imagery; for example, the Tropic of Cancer has periodic crustaceans ringing the latitude. There are also animals galore; a unicorn prances through Tartary on Tavola II and a griffin lurks on Tavola III.

Certain political figures are also highlighted. Monte lived during the reign of Philip II of Spain and the power of the Spanish empire is evident across the globe: several Spanish armadas can be found from Atlantic to Pacific. The Spanish ascendancy is also evident in the large vignette in the south Atlantic, which shows Philip with a Spanish knight in a ship with another man who is supposed to the be the King of Peru; the Peruvian is showing Philip the riches of the Americas. The vignette is identical to one from a map by Giacomo Gastaldi and Paolo Forlani of 1561.




porto d'araya
Aldea
Iurna
camari
Aspro monte
Rio salado
Rio dolce
ponta tara
Golfo de Paria
Iurna
c. Blanco
Iurna gran
Rio Berde
Rio Basso
A
R
PARIA
IPR
A
Paria
Rio grande
Duraca
oritigna
coribica
Vulcano
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
LIA DE L'ORO
20 1/3
la spagnoli per l'abondanza
vi trouorno
Bogotà
lombi
NOVA
Pantura
poto
Alcazari
NOVA
GRANADA


Chiriricos
cabo Blanco
arboledo
Rio Aterife
Pariçuta
ciorotega
costa de Pariçuta
massara
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
21 2/3
21 2/3
ANDALVZIA
Tisnada
cazares
Rio oregliana
oregliana
Realegio
c. Borica
Nazaret
cabo de

Monte's first geographic work and the Japanese embassy

To understand why Monte would create such a large and detailed planisphere, it is helpful to look at the works he created before and after this first planisphere. His first written work, as far as we know, was Delle cose più notabili successe nella città di Milano. This four-volume family history survives in full in the Biblioteca Ambrosiana and in part in the Braidense Library. It is dated to 1587 thanks to the mention of refurbishments of the Duomo and covers Monte family history dating to 1386.

While the work is an interesting piece of local history, its importance is enhanced thanks to the detailed description of the Japanese Embassy to Milan of 1585. This was the first Japanese Embassy to Europe and was orchestrated by the Jesuits, specifically Alesandro Valignano, the visitator of the Jesuit missions in the East Indies. The Jesuits had begun their mission to Japan in 1549 and they made significant contacts across the social spectrum. Indeed, two of the four boys selected for the pilgrimage to see the Pope were representing various Japanese daimyo, or feudal lords, who had converted to Catholicism.

The four teenage boys left Nagasaki with Valignano on February 20, 1582. They stopped over in Goa, where Valignano was ordered on another task, leaving the young men with Nuno Rodrigues, the rector of the Jesuit College at Goa. They arrived in Lisbon on August 11, 1584, from where they began their European tour through Portugal and Spain. There, they met Philip II, then continued to Italy via Livorno and finally, to Rome.

In Rome, they had an audience with the Pope, Gregory XIII, who gifted them with fine clothes and was impressed by their piety and presence. While the boys visited Rome, Gregory XIII died, leaving the boys to witness the Eternal City as it conducted a conclave to elect Sixtus V, with whom they also met.

On their return trip, they continued their tour through Rome and on July 25, 1585, they entered Milan. This is where Monte encountered the boys. In the fourth volume of his Delle cose più notabili he commented on their appearance and manners; the former he found odd but he thought their manners impressive and their eating habits fascinating.

The visit of the Japanese boys led to an interest in Japanese geography. Monte not only read of Japan in the existing literature, most of it authored by the Jesuits, but also likely was given access to Jesuit knowledge while the Embassy visited. He remarked that the Japanese island was three times as large as Italy, and also wrote of the administration of the daimyos, the health of the people, and the progress of the Jesuits missions.

In 1589, Monte published an impressively detailed map of Japan, Monte's first known foray into cartography. Japan is mapped similarly on the planisphere (on Tavola IX). Though it appears strangely shaped and is stretched farther east to west than north to south, it is the numerous specific place names included which show its value as compared to contemporary renditions. It also shows the depth of research conducted by Monte.


GIAPONE ISOLA
Ancoras
XIMO PRO
XICO.PR.
MEACO
PROV.
NABVNANGA
capo de cangosima
Frando isola
nagarachi
Degota
Zangia
amacusa
Amanguçi R.
Terre del goto
Bando R.
Farima
Hipingem R.
Tacasaque
Tonormine
nabasaca
sangaiaba
Tossa R.
Azuquiama
Vomi
nagasache
Nangafama
Arima
cangosima
Vorie
Vando
Tacacengui
Iunaino
Tango
Tomi
Tamato

GOLFO DE PERSIA
GOLFO DE ORMUS
MARE DE INDIA
GOLFO DE BENGALA
MONTE BALANGUER
SABLESTAN
CANDAHAR
DECAN
DELLI
REGNO DE BISNAGAR
ISOLA DE ZEILAN
ARCIPELAGO DE MALDIVAR


MARE DE LA CHINA
MARE LANCHIDOL
ISOLE DE SAN LAZARO
REGNO DE CANFA
REGNO DE CAMBOIA
REGNO DE IANGOMA
CAMOTAI REGNO
TIBURA REGNO
MOIN REG
REGNO DE CAMUL
DESERTO
TAIOAN
BORNEO
Tangameira
Tanganbarahon
LARGHEZA DELLE

Trattato Universale and the planisphere projections

As soon as he had finished his family history with its section on Japan, Monte embarked on his largest scholarly endeavor, the Trattato Universale. Intended as a reference work for students and scholars, the work ran to four volumes, with the third containing the planisphere in first 60 and then 64 sheets.

The third volume was the first of the parts of the work to be finished and is the largest of the volumes. Its contents reflect the broad definition of geography at that time, which spanned history, political economy, and ethnography. The volumes includes descriptions of each of the countries and regions of the world, including their relative location, climate, names, history, fortifications, forms of government, physical characteristics, habits, languages, and religion.

The size of volume III is also amplified by the many sheets of the planisphere. According to D'Ascenzo, Monte most likely began work on the map in July of 1585, just after the Japanese arrived. He read as widely as he could for the next two years, completing and revising the planisphere from 1587 to 1590.

As D'Ascenzo explains further, it is likely that Monte had access to a few printed maps and various atlases from which he drew his information. It is unlikely Monte read the original works of the Greek and Roman geographers, but more probably read them as digested through sixteenth century sources. The main source he utilized was the work of his contemporary Giovanni Lorenzo d'Anania (1545-1609), whose L'Universale fabrica del Mondo, overo Cosmografia was first published in Naples in 1573 and an expanded edition was published in Venice in 1576. In the work, d'Anania carries out a review of the geography, history, and anthropology of Europe (vol. I), Asia (vol. II), Africa (vol. III) and the West Indies (vol. IV). Other sources included Hernan Cortes, Fernando Columbus (son and biographer of the famous Christopher), Girolamo Girava, and Juan Gonzalez de Mendoza.

For cartographic style and information, Monte looked particularly to Giacomo Gastaldi, as well Olaus Magnus, Paolo Giovio, the Zeno brothers, Gerard Mercator, André Thévet, Oronce Fine, and Abraham Ortelius. Monte made innovative use of the materials available to him. He also did not rely primarily on Ptolemy's projections but on more contemporary sources, a step many of his fellow geographers, including d'Anania, were not bold enough to take.

Monte's innovation is particularly of note in the projections he chose for the planisphere. In the 60 sheet examples, Monte chose a polar azimuthal projection; that is, a portrayal of the globe as radiating from a central North Pole, with the degrees of latitude shown at equidistant intervals. The Renaissance was a time of experimentation with projections for world maps, and Monte was a student of the various projections then being used.

With the advent of circumnavigations, the trade to the East Indies, and the encounter with the Americas, the known world of


NVNTIVS
CVSTOS
VRBANO
MONTE

Renaissance scholars literally expanded, necessitating new ways to depict the round globe on a two-dimensional plane. In 1506, Johannes Ruysch is credited as the first to place the North Pole at the center of an equidistant conic projection, depicting the world like an unfolded fan. Previously, in 1426, the Count of Dyffenbach completed a celestial map of the northern hemisphere with the North Pole at the center. In 1512, Walter Lud included a polar projection as a diagram in a compilation assembled by Gregor Reisch. Others, like Peter Apian's 1530 world map, Oronce Fine's 1536 world map, and Mercator's 1538 world map, employed interpretations of a cordiform, or heart-shaped map (double cordiform, in the case of Mercator). Furthermore, it is possible that Monte was inspired by the work of Guillaume Postel. Postel published, in 1578 (no copies extant; reprintings in 1581, 1621), Polo Aptata Nova Charta Universi, a polar azimuthal northern hemisphere with the southern hemisphere split into two azimuthal half-hemispheres.

Although Monte's precise inspiration for the polar azimuthal projection is not known, it is certain that the projection would continue to be used. Monte's contemporaries were aware of his work, even if later scholars ignored his contributions. It is possible that Gennaro Picicaro was aware of Monte's work when he made his polar projection inlaid desk in 1587. Later, the polar azimuthal projection would be chosen by Cassini for the grand map on the floor of the Paris Observatory and, in the eighteenth century, Heinrich Scherer took up the projection, among others.

Monte made another choice after he made this planisphere. On the 64 sheet version, the projection was changed from a polar azimuthal projection to a lobular projection. The northern hemisphere is still shown on the polar projection—Tavolas I to XII are largely the same—but the southern hemisphere is split into four petals or lobes which surround the northern hemisphere. It is unclear why Monte changed the projection, whether for scholarly reasons or as result of a request from his engraver. Whatever the choice, he made one of the most unusual projection selections of the sixteenth century and showed his evolution as a geographical thinker. For example, rather than eight islands in the southern oceans, he reduced the number to three in the lobular projection.


Isole di capo verde
S. Antonio
S. Nicolo
S. Giacomo
Del fuoco
Ecco ti o Re mgnanimo, e soprano,
Che come merti, il marinesco stuolo
Del mar l'Imperio ton questa ate dana.
RE PHILIPO MAX.
capo negro
S. de Franco. lorena
Li naviganti passato che hano il circolo Equinotia
non si seruono piu della stella verso
Artico, detta Tramontana, atteso che piu non
vedono; ma si gouernano dalle stelle verso
Antartico, dette il crociero, che sono sei
Tre che li fan


BARGO PR.
DESERTO DE CARE
TVRCH REG.
FILAC. REG.
SAFANIAN REG.
CIARCIAN REG.
TARSE R.
Husuacanorum horda
horda
Nubio laco
Dobsamone orda
Focarde
Songalory horda
Hohircant horda
falconi Insula
polo di magneti et le Isole di C. verde
Aragon
Rosalzan
sucai
Acus
Legali Tartari
Alicorno
Tabor Reg.
ARSARET
doue sono dieci Tribu' d'Israel.
Equna
Monghi Tartari
Questi paesani caualcano Rangiferi animali, che somigliano a i cerui
BARCV. PR.
In questi deserti vi sono spiriti, ch' ingannano li viandanti & farli pericolare
Panconia
Talairi Tartari
Neftalini Tartari
Ganzu
Qui si trouano animali con faccia di donzella il corpo di leone, et coda di scorpione.
TANGVT PR.
catacoran
DESERTO DE LOP.
Lop.
Deserto
Amau laco
Danhi Tartari
Chirabiguss
Peliganzu
Ania
ANIA PR.
Regno de CAMVL

MARE DEL
MARE DE BARGO
circolo Artico
STRETO DI ANIANO
TERRA INCOGNITA
ANIAN. PR.
Amagog
Polisac Rio
AGAMA.
Pagul
Tuchano
sierra nevada
porto primo
Rio de s.to Antonio
salbal
Tiburag
Folgaga
chichuich
QUIVIRA PROVINCIA
QUIVIRA
Quiuira
popoli
Icelubiri che stano alla campagna a modo de Tartari
qui si trovano vache et Torri che hano la gobba come cameli et hano il petto et la coda come leoni et il resto come li nostri de Italia
capo nevado
porto de ogni santi
porto del fuego
porto de san Michel
de crus
Porto di lea

The Monte planisphere in sixteenth-century Italian geographic culture

Monte's map project seems a monumental undertaking to modern eyes, yet during his time he was simply a gentleman scholar embarking on a deeper study into one of the most popular areas of scholarship, geography. In the sixteenth century, geography as a subject—and maps as objects— proliferated in Italian society. The highlight of the scholarly output was Giovanni Battista Ramusio's magnum opus, Navigationi et viaggi, which was published between 1550 and 1559. Whereas Ramusio's project was to bring together the most important voyages and journeys in the history of exploration, Monte's was to compile all available knowledge on the extent and population of the globe. Although Monte curiously does not name Ramusio as one of his sources, it is still possible that he used Ramusio's works.

Beyond texts, cartographic objects were used as decorations on fans and screens. They were used as wall hangings and inlaid in tables, as in the case of Picicaro. Surviving household inventories reveal that many upper-class households not only owned maps, but that they were displayed in the most social areas of the dwelling, helping to construct the identity of the owner as a cultured, cosmopolitan individual.

The most well-known of the displays of power and wealth via maps are in the Palazzo Vecchio and the Palazzo Farnese. The former is the town hall of Florence and it contains a grand hall full of mural maps. Meant to portray the entire world as known in the mid-sixteenth century, the room was never completed; 53 of the intended 57 paintings survive today. However, those murals that were completed exemplify how political power was projected via publicly-displayed geographic knowledge. The Palazzo Farnese contains a Maps Room, a grand open space with the walls and ceiling showing the extent of the New World as discovered by Columbus and his contemporaries.

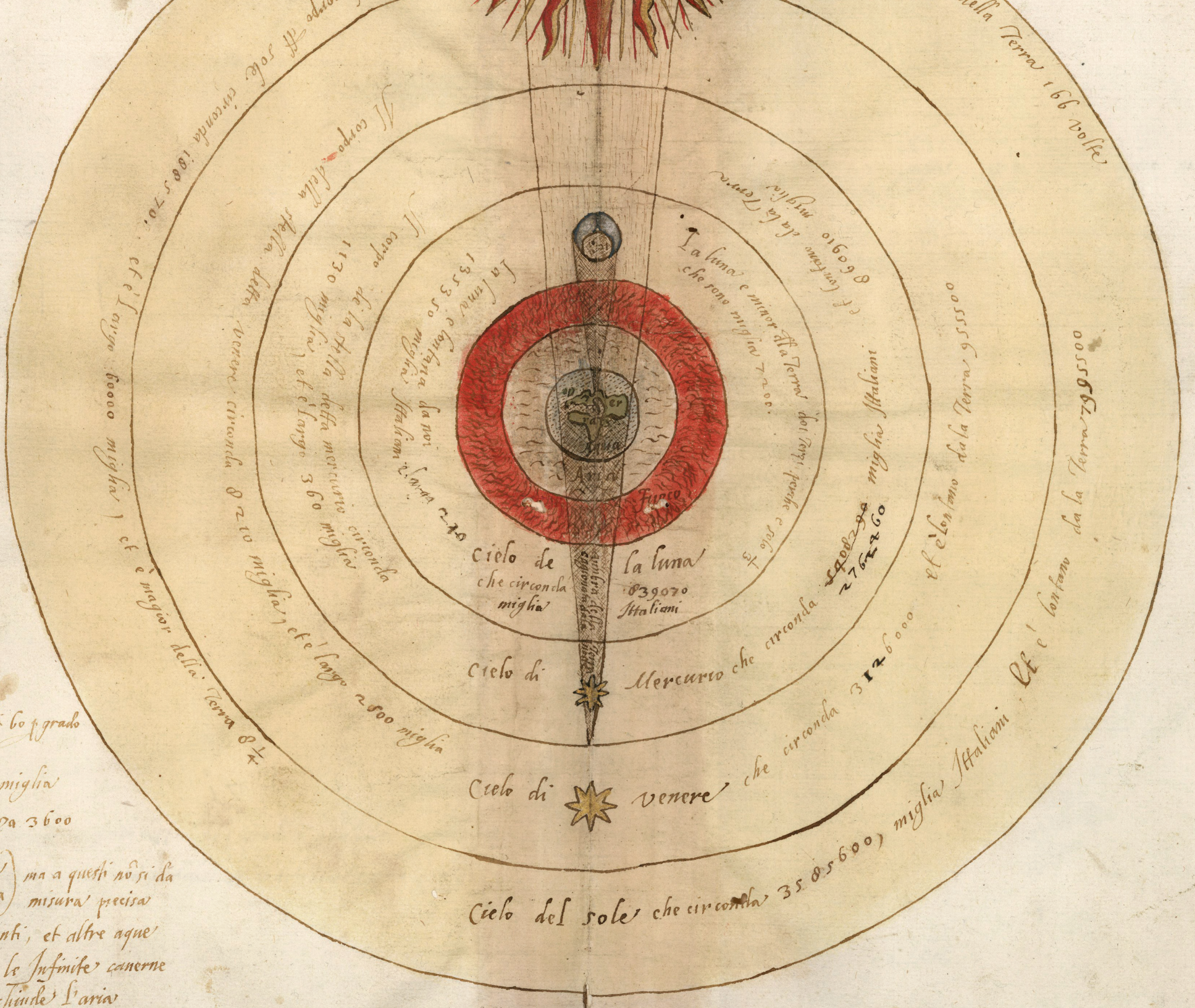
Monte's great planisphere was part and parcel of these geographic projects that meant to harness knowledge about the world to local and regional purposes. Monte hoped to educate, the designers of the Palazzo Vecchio hoped to control and awe. In the sixteenth century, geography was being used in more ways and more places than ever before. Monte's manuscript world map, the largest known, is a testament to the wonder geography held for the generations who were living through the exciting century of discovery that was the sixteenth century. Their world was growing each day and Monte wanted to understand all of it.

Monte's planisphere is a trove of information and opportunity for researchers. It is now available to a wide audience for the first time and it is hoped that more can be learned about Urbano Monte, the gentleman geographer of Milan, and his wondrous, giant planisphere.

POMERIA
SASONIA
FRISA
isole de frisa
Montes Michel
BRABANTIA
HESSIA
VESTVALDIA
VESFALIA
TVRINGIA
FIANDRA
BRETAGNA
NORMANDIA
LOTARINGIA
Paris
BAVERA
SVIZERI
BOEMIA
MORAVIA
SLESIA
LVSATIA
MARCA
NOVA
POLONIA MINORE
CRACOVIA
RVSSIA
ROSSIA ROSSA
TRANSILV.
MOLDAVIA
VALACHIA
MACEDONIA
AVSTRIA
CARINTIA
VNGARIA
ALBANIA
Dalmatia
Ragugia
GVASCOGNA
LENGVADOC
DELFINA
SAVOIA
PROVENZA
Lion
Marsilia
GOLFO DI VENETIA
Venetia
Ancona
Roma
Napoli
TERA DI LAVORO
PVGLIA
CALABRIA
Golfo di Taranto
Elba
Minorca
Mallorca
MARE
ME
DI
TER
R
COR SICA
SAR DIGNA
SICI LIA
Palermo
Lipari
Pantalarea
Malta
MOREA
Zante
Alger
Bona
TREMISEN
TVNES
Africa
Tripoli
Mesurata
C. Rasausen
Bonandrea
B A R
B A R I A


DESERTO LASLITEM
TUNES R.
CATHSA R.
TARGA R.
TEOREGAV. DESERTO
monte Atlante
TOMGOBUTO R.
GOGDEM DESERTO
REGNO
NIGER F.
MELLI R.
GABO R.
GVINEA R.
TEMIAN R.
MELLEGHETE R.
GVBER R.
AGADEZ R.
CANO R.
CASSENA R.
GEOGA DESERTO
GVANGARA R.
REGZEG R.
DAVMA R.
BENIN R.
BELÆRA R.
BORCA R.
capo dele palme
capo de tre ponte
ogni cinque gradi portano vn' Terzo d'hora de Tempo
isola de Fernando Paon
isola del principe
isola de san Tome
MANICONGO R.

MARE . ROSSO
GVADEMES DESERTO
DESERTO DEBARC
AVGELLA
SVACHEI DESERTO
BANAGASSO R.
AMAI R.
MAGADAZO R.
NVBIA
da questi vneri sono sparsi el mondo cingari
GORAN R.
cocodrilo
GVEGVERA essere MERDE
BANAGASSO
BARDOA Deserto
BORNO R.
dromedario
DOBAS R.
NILLO FIVME
BORNO R.
Il Niger passa qui sotto Terra sesantamiglia
camelo
AMAR R.
MONTE DE AMAR
MEDRA R.
Seu Lago
qui in questi monti il prete Jani Tiene li suoi Figli co guarda
MELINDE R.
QVIOLA REGNO
GOIAME R.
MONOPOTAPA REGNO
monti de la Luna
MOZAMBIQVE REGNO
monti di Bersim



a miglia 60 p grado

200 miglia
larghezza 3600

Terra
dl Aqua
ma a questi nō si da misura precisa

gni, fonti, et altre aque
et p le Infinite caverne
é si chiude l'aria

Bibliography

Almagià, R. “Un prezioso cimelio della cartografica Italiana: il planisfero di Urbano Monti.” La bibliofilia XLIII (1943): 156-193.

Carleton, Genevieve. “Making an Impression: The Display of Maps in Sixteenth-Century Venetian Homes.” Imago Mundi 64, no. 1 (2012): 28-40.

D’Ascenzo, Annalisa. Cultura geografica e cartografia in Italia alla fine del Cinquecento: Il Trattato universale di Urbano Monte. Rome: Viella, 2012.

Goss, J. J. S. “An Unusual Wall Map by Urbano Monti 1544-1613.” Map Collector (June 1981): 18-22.

Kraus, H. P. Cemilia, Catalogue 165. New York, 1983.

Lestringant, Frank and Monique Pelletier, “Maps and Descriptions of the World in Sixteenth-Century France.” In History of Cartography, vol. 3, part 2, edited by David Woodward, 1463-1479. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Massarella, Derek. “The Japanese Embassy to Europe (1582-1590).” Hakluyt Society Journal (February 2013): 1-12.

Revelli, P. I codici ambrosiani di contenuto geografico. Fontes Ambrosiani, no. 1. Milan: L. Alfieri, 1929.

Shirley, Rodney. Mapping of the World: Early Printed World Maps, 1472-1700. Worthing: Littlehampton Book Services, 1984.

Snyder, John P. Flattening the Earth: Two Thousand Years of Map Projections. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993.

Walter, Lutz, ed. Japan: A Cartographic Vision, European printed maps of Japan from the 16th to the 19th century (Munich: Prestel, 1994), Nos 16a, 16b, and 17.

Known examples of Monte's planispheres

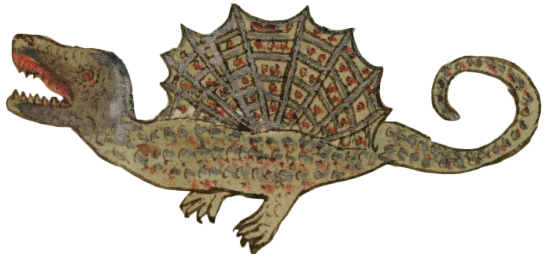
Rumsey example. ca. 1587 with corrections to 1590. 60 sheet manuscript planisphere on a polar azimuthal projection. David Rumsey Collection.

Copy S. ca. 1587 with corrections to 1590. 60 sheet manuscript planisphere on a polar azimuthal projection. Biblioteca del Seminario Arcivescovile di Milano in Venegono Inferioro.

Copy A. 1604. 64 sheet printed planisphere on a globular projection. Biblioteca Ambrosiana.

Single sheet engraved world map on a polar azimuthal projection. 1603. Biblioteca Ambrosiana

Single sheet engraved world map on a polar azimuthal projection. 1603. Doria Atlas.




L' Imperatore de Turchi
se questo conoscesse il vero Iddio
et della fe di cristo havesse cura
posto ogni altro pensier basso in oblio
Tant'è la sua grandeza e la sua altura
a fiumi, a monti faria darsi il fio
e farebbe onta quasi ala natura
ma quant'el suo poter grande o magiore
Tant'è più grande il suo pernerso errore


Il Rè di spagna et de le Indie
Domina Loriente et l'occidente
questo chel Re cattolico vien detto
egli alla santa chiesa vbidiente
è pieno di saper santo e perfetto
Tira a Iesu quella perduta gente
ch'era preda al nemico maladetto
et mentre al'alme altrui cerca salute
aquista ase da Dio gloria e virtute


Il Re De Polonia
confina il Re con l'agiaciato mare
della grande orsa le cui onde afrena
L'alta di lui possanza singolare
Tutt'e di maestad'e d'honor piena
In lui la gratia e la virtude appare
che dona premio a i boni e a vitiosi pena
et Pollania a tempi suoi si presta,
ch'egli di lei, ella di lui fan festa

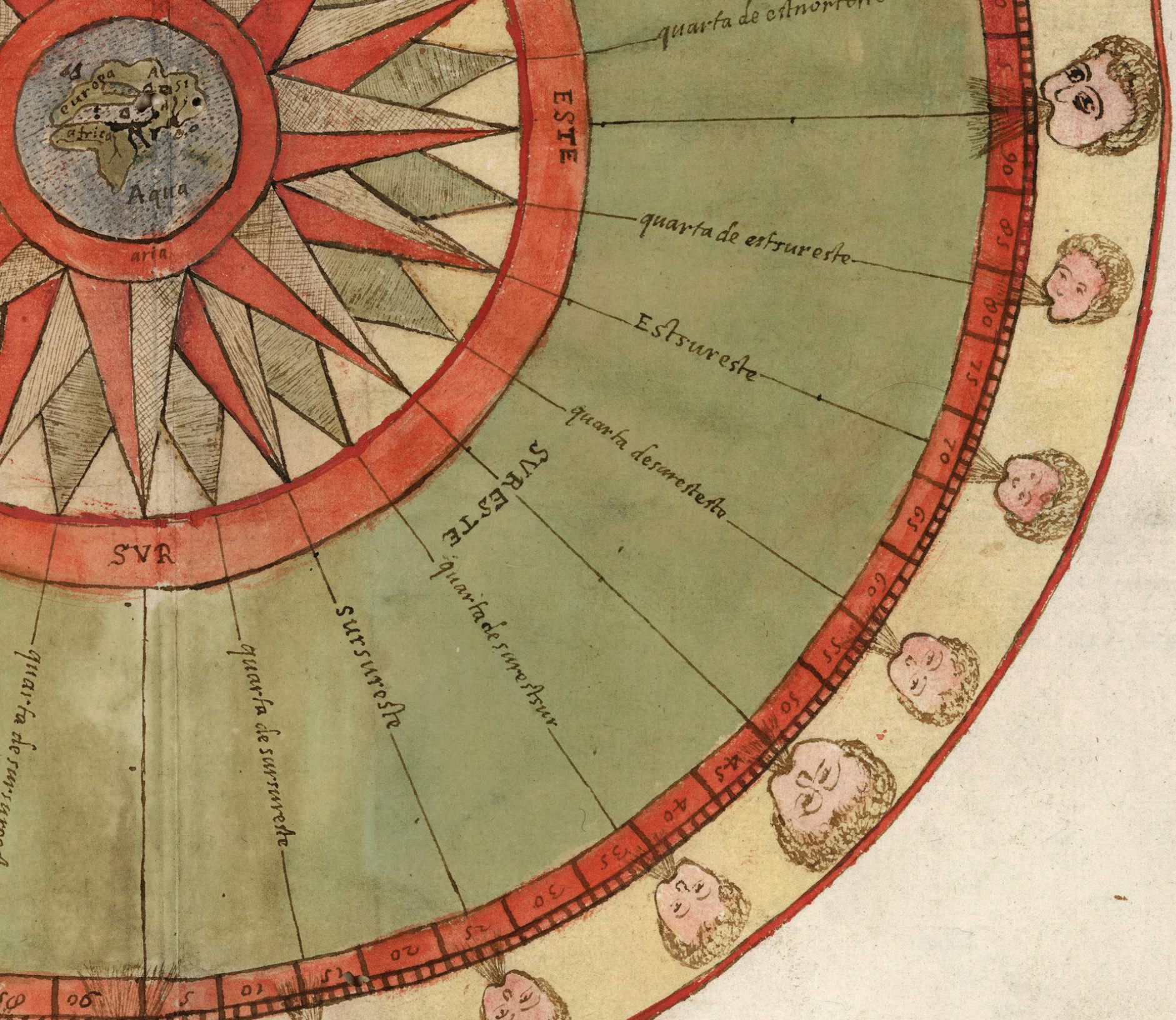

Il Re de Portogallo
seguita ancor nell'oceano Immenso
la fama di costui dirizando il volo
et mentre a lui per honorarla il censo
Pagaro i Dei del marinesco stuolo
D'armati legni un longo tempo e denso
per lui mill'anni corse il salso suolo
che sia in cielo grata a Iesu cristo
Doue vivendo procurò l'aquisto


De cristiani sommo Pontefice
optimo maximo
Doppo le tante gran persecutioni
che la chiesa di cristo ha sopportato
Degno era ben che da celesti doni
questo santo pastor ci fosse dato
perche per le sue preci et orationi
Tutto il popolo eletto e battezato
mirando i meriti suoi douesse unito
Venerare il pastor santo e graditto


Il gran Prete Iani
Re della grande Etiopia
Il negro Re de l'Etiopia a cui
Tanta possanza diede il ciel vorrei
ha molti Re, non pur sugetti a lui
con le persone lor, col lor paese,
ma quei servigi ch'al lor fanno altrui,
fano essi al sol di lui segno palese,
et ha costui fra noi cristiani loco,
ma per aqua al batesmo egli usai fuoco


Matezuma che fu Re di Messico
et de l'India occidentale
De l'India occidentale et di Messico
ch'hora da noi La nostra spagna è detta
fu costui Re' d'ogn'altro Re'l piu rico
di Tesoro e di gente maladetta
quando Fernando cauagliero inuitto
detto cortes quella fece sogietta
A carlo quinto Imperator Romano
Magno Inuitto Potente'mi ogni piano


Romano Imperatore
Del sacrosanto Imperio Romano
costui ha il scetro la corona e'l manto
lui riuerisce il popolo cristiano
et a lui da de l'armi il pregio e'l vanto
per lui l'oriental serpe lontano
da l'emispero nostro fuge tanto
che per virtù di lui siamo sicuri
da pericoli vrgenti et da futuri


Europa
Africa
Aqua
aria
ESTE
quarta de estnorteste
quarta de estsureste
Estsureste
quarta desuresteste
SVRESTE
quarta desuresursur
SVR
sursureste
quarta de sursursureste
quarta de sursurnorte
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90

About the Author

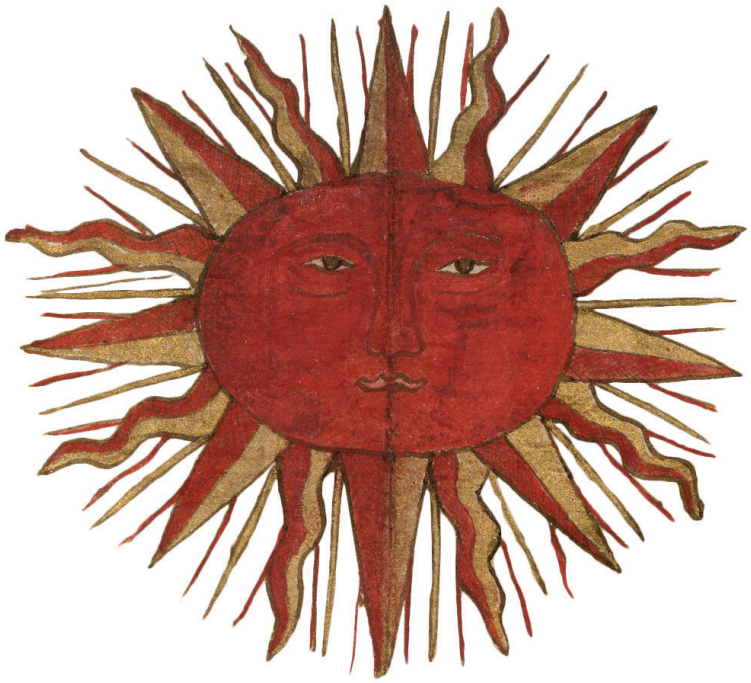
Dr. Katherine Parker (FRGS) earned a BA (Hons.) in History and International Studies at Oregon State University, University Honors College (2006). She studied at the University of Pittsburgh for her MA (2012) and PhD in History (2016), where she specialized in the creation of Pacific geographic knowledge in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Her specialization is in the early modern European history of cartography.

Upon graduation, she was awarded a Hakluyt Society Research Fellowship. She is currently the Administrative Editor for the Hakluyt Society, which specializes in the publication of primary sources for the history of global exploration.

She has also held fellowships from the American Bibliographical Society, the John Carter Brown Library, and the Mellon Foundation. She is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

She joined Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps in autumn 2016 as the Research Officer.

She lives and works in London, UK.



Stanford | LIBRARIES
DAVID RUMSEY MAP CENTER

BLR Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.