

THE KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICA, ARCTICA, ANTARCTICA AND AUSTRALIA ON ANCIENT MAPS

by

Christine Pellech

Summary: In this article should be proved that the continents of America and Australia, as well as Arctica and Antarctica, appear on maps before their official discoveries. The knowledge about these continents and landmasses could be stretched to a time before 10.000 BC, in which the continents of Asia and America were connected by a land bridge of 1.500 km. By the then ruling last ice age the sea level was dropped down for about 120 meters which gave as a consequence that large area connection. At the same time the Antarctica coasts lay ice-free, this phenomenon could be found also on some old maps. Therefore we must assume by the exactitude of those maps we found, that then a high culture has dwelled on earth, because otherwise such a accuracy in the field of cartography was not to be attained.

At the beginning of my explications I will beg my esteemed readers to have a look to my article "A 14.000 Years Old World Sea Map" from the website. It gives a further proof for the following explanations, for it concerns about the oldest map scheme of the world, to be dated on before 12.000 BC. This map scheme presumes a seafaring in contact to all continents, for the ocean currents are given in their ways and strengths in such precision as only to be realized by experience throughout decades. Since ocean currents cannot be ascertained by appearance, seafaring technical experiences are conditionals for their knowledge.

Up unto about the same time, between 12.000 and 10.000 BC, the geographical contents of the three maps to be discussed as follows have to be retrodated:

- 1) The Piri Re'is Map 1513 AD,
- 2) The Oronteus Phineus Map for Antarctica 1531 AD,
- 3) The World Map of Hadji Ahmed 1559 AD.

These three maps are analyzed carefully in the book "The Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings" by Charles H. Hapgood. Let us now have a view to the map of Piri Re'is figured in 1513.

Piri Re'is emphasizes his map to be unique and partially to be set together from ancient maps (Hapgood, 2002: 17). Charles Hapgood, Prof. at Keene State College, New Hampshire, has compared this map to representations on today's maps and discovered, that we have in the Piri Re'is map a degree correct width surveying of the Atlantic. Central intersections to which the graduations relate were the 30th degree of longitude east through Alexandria, Egypt, with the tropics of Cancer respectively of Capricorn. To take a measure of longitudinal degrees chronometry was required, which in fact was obtained in Europe of 1750, when John Harrison invented a nautical chronometer for the reckoning of geographical length – nearly 240 years later. Condition was also an agreement about a zero meridian, today through Greenwich, England. The now 30th longitudinal degree for Alexandria was to the Piri Re'is map the source line of chronometry, i.e. the zero meridian required (Hapgood; 2002:82).

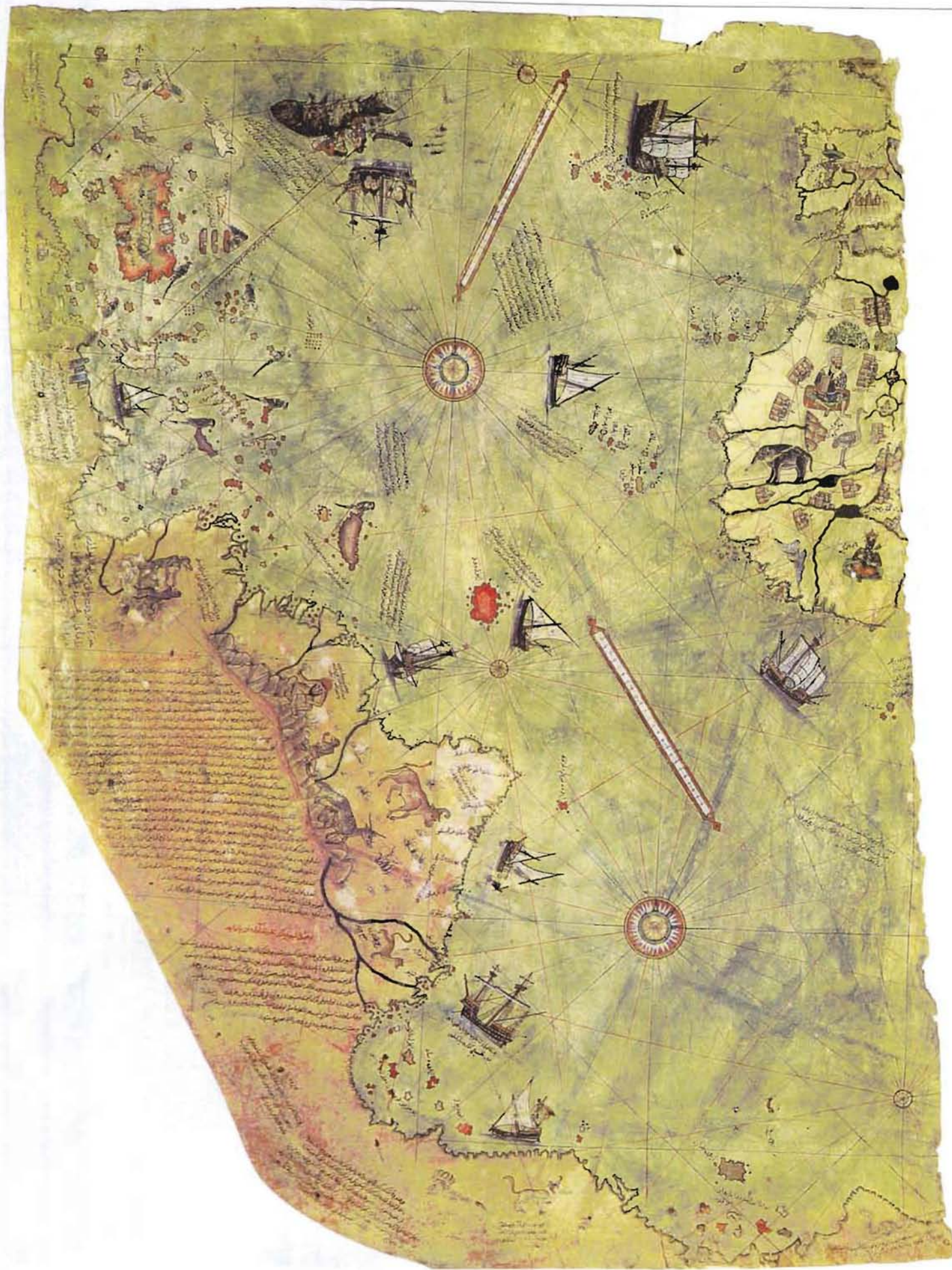
Let us elaborate now on some specialties of this map. Hapgood confirms among others that the course of the Atrato river in Columbia, until 500 km distance from the coast, is designed degree-correctly, also the point at 5° latitude north where he turns off eastwards. This corresponds to the geographical facts. For that we have to conclude the river to have been explored up to the sources in the western Cordilleras before 1513. But from such an early exploration there is given no evidence. Yukatan also was not discovered at this time (Hapgood, 2002: 116).

The Falkland Islands in the southern Atlantic appear on the Piri Re'is map at the correct latitude in relation to the southern part of the South American coast, but with a longitudinal deviation of 5 degrees. The Falklands then were discovered by John Davis not before 1592, that is, nearly 80 years after the origin of the Piri Re'is map (Hapgood, 2002: 119).

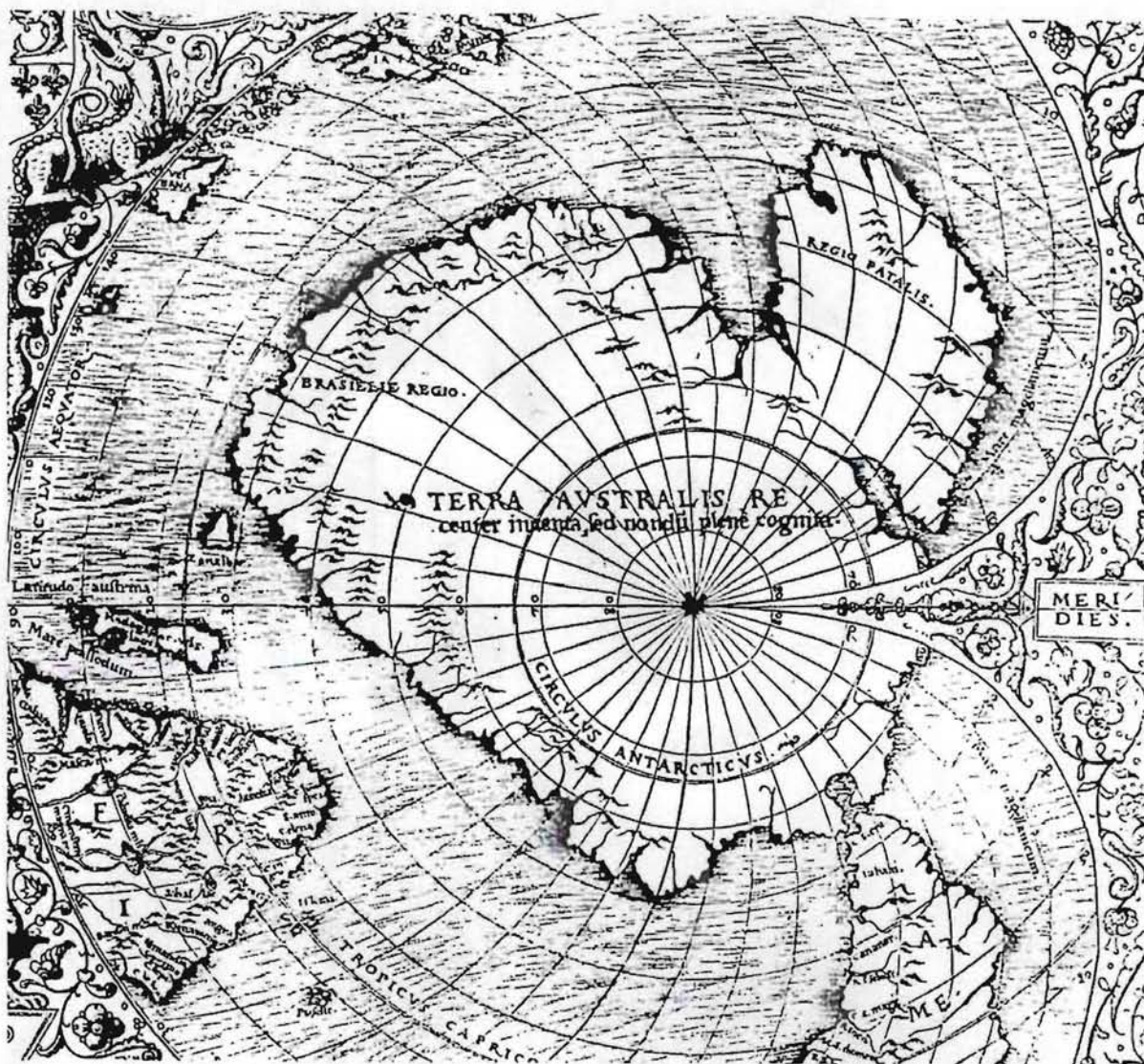
Correctly drawn also is Antarctica before shores freezing, with mountains and rivers. The age of the Piri Re'is map was given on the cause that Antarctica is shown ice-free partially, with about 10.000 years. Officially, Antarctica was discovered only in 1818 (Hapgood, 2002: 216).

As for the next, we will deal with the map of Oronteus Phineus who was drawn the southern hemisphere of the earth, with Antarctica and the southern parts of Africa and of South America. Time of origin 1531 (Hapgood, 2002: 134f.). The contours of Antarctica resemble the today representations astonishingly. The South Pole, about in the midst of the continent, corresponds to reality. The mountain ranges at the shores of Antarctica correspond to those found in recent times under the ice covers. The coasts therefore must have been ice-free. Since on the map in the inner of the landmass no mountain can be recognized, it may be concluded that at this time, at least about 4000 BC, the kernel of Antarctica has remained under ice.

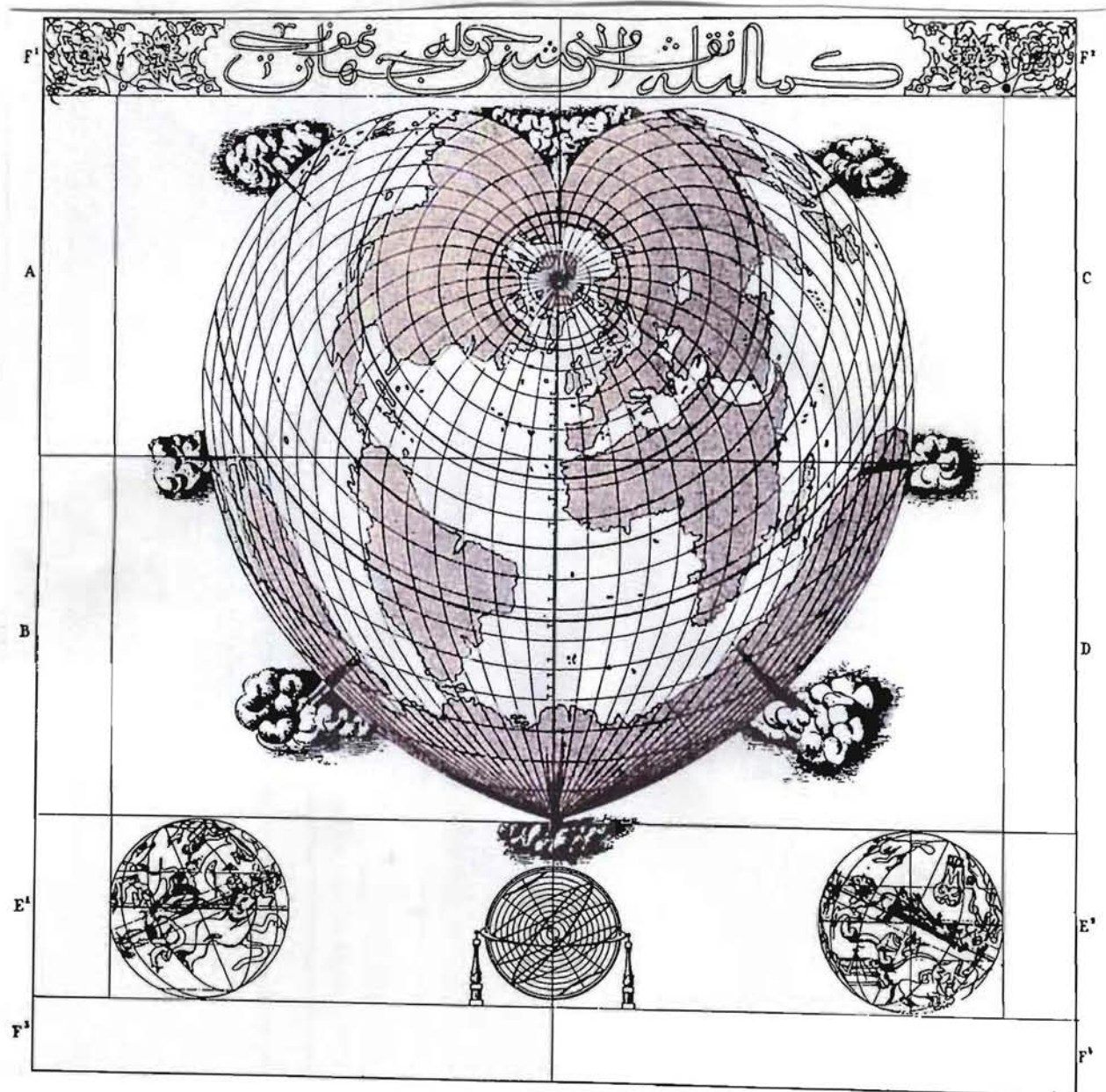
At the third, the World Map of Hadji Ahmed is to be considered. The eastern hemisphere of this map follows the cartography of Ptolemy. But otherwise the western hemisphere: here the cartographer must have been fallen back to extraordinary source materials. The contours of the North- and South American continents look quite modern. Especially interestingly looks the western coast of North America. The line about the region now including the United States is nearly perfect. By this, Hadji Ahmed was ahead of his time for about two centuries (Hapgood, 2002: 153f.). This part of the map apparently was drawn in a highly developed spherical projection. The American west coast, at this time, was hardly explored and rarely mentioned. Also drawn, a land bridge between Asia and the American continent, width about 1500 kilometers. This land bridge did really exist during the last ice age, by which we can date back this map also to an original from 10.000 BC. By the then ruling last ice age the sea



Piri Re'is Map 1513 AD.



Oronteus Phineus Map 1531 AD.



World Map of Hadji Ahmed 1559 AD.



Globe of Martin Behaim 1492

level was dropped down for about 120 meters which gave as a consequence that large area connection (Huppertz, 2001: 17). And just this land bridge we will meet on many maps later.

For the next we will call attention to the globe of Martin Behaim. Here we can identify, on the Atlantic side of North America, the estuary of the St. Lawrence valley with the offshore islands. Martin Behaim made his globe in 1492, before the return of Columbus from his first journey (Hapgood, 2002: 104). Columbus reached at this time only the Caribbean.

Now let us turn towards a quite extraordinary map: figured on a phoenician gold coin, a so called "stater". It was Marc McMenamin, Professor of Geology and Paleontology at Mount Holyoke College, who made this discovery. The coin was found, together with many other coins from the 4th century BC. on Corvo island of the Azores, by Portuguese seafarers, at 1750. McMenamin found at the reverse of some coins markings to numismatists yet known but not understood. They dismissed them as faulty samples. Not so McMenamin, he blew them up by computer and realized in surprise that there were elements of maps. One of the coins even bore a world map similar to that the Greek geographer Ptolemy had composed in the 2nd century AD. In "Mercators World" McMenamin elaborated on the different coins more in detail (McMenamin, 1997: 46f).

I will confine myself in the presentation to only one coin because it was possible for me to examine it autoptically. Surprisingly, I could draw then further conclusions. By the mentioned coin it concerns with the one of number 11 on the plate 1 in the book "Carthaginian Gold and Electrum Coins" by R.B. Lewis and G.K. Jenkins. The diameter of the coin is 18 mm. On the reverse of the coin there is a horse standing on a line. The space underneath the line is 8 mm in length to 2 mm in depth at its greatest extension. On this tiny space, as from McMenamin correctly acknowledged, a stylized world map, microscopically little, was enched. By multiple magnifying of this space, in the left area one can make out North America with the Hudson Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and the South American continent extended to south east. In the west borders on a wide water plain – the Pacific, in the east – the Atlantic. In the midst of the picture in set off the Mediterranean with its peripherals. Distinctly marked the mountain ridge of the Pyrenees separating France from Spain. Also visibly the Alpes and further mountains unto Greece and the Peloponnesos peninsula. Hardly to find in the west of Greece Italy. In the east of Greece the stright Turkish coast lineament. Then the coast turns on 90° to south, as the coast of Near East. Also in rectangle follows the coast of North Africa. After about two thirds of this coast we see a short line to north west, ending into a great dark spot. The place at the North African coast from which the line arises, is Carthage. The great dark spot is the island of Sardinia. Why this connecting line? In the 4th century BC Carthage is, in the time of the minting the commerce center of the Phoenicians. The line to Sardinia shows the important relations between the both places. And of which character were these relations? Gold coins so called "Stater" were found in great number in Sardinia. Until now the opinion was prevailing that the required gold came from Africa and was minted in Carthage. To protect them from robbery the coins were brought then to Sardinia. This perhaps is true for a part of those coins. But a less part of the coins were made of gold dug in Sardinia itself and surely also minted there (R.B. Lewis, G.K. Jenkins, 1963: 26). Gold findings essential for the minting in Sardinia explain the great importance of this island and its oversized representation on the coins. Perhaps those coins with secret maps engraved were made in Sardinia. Gold coins were used in world commerce while th contrary silver coins were needed for every day requirements (R.B. Lewis, G.K. Jenkins, 1963: 25). Now let us go forth in examination of the map. In the east, after Mediterraneans, we find the characteristical shape of Arabia. Further in the east, in the sea, as a triangular island, the Indian subcontinent. By the continents America,



Map on a Phoenician Gold Coin

Europe, Africa, Asia and the adherent seas as Pacific, Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian ocean, we unmistakably have a World Map before us!

When I then scrutinized the enlarged picture of the coin by magnifying I could make the following sensational observations: the presentation corresponds to a modern map. In the west of North America we can recognize by dark grey the Rocky Mountains, in the east by a mid grey the Appalachians. Mexico and the northern part of South America show a mid shading also. In the west of Europe the Pyrenees are drawn as dark mountains, like from central Europe to the south until to the Peloponnesos the Alps, and the mountains to the south of Greece. Italy hardly distinguishable in mid grey until two thirds of its boot, then light grey in the south. Sardinia again, mountainous. The Arabia peninsula mid grey corresponding to the altitude. Again India exactly drawn: the highest rises at the west coast with the West Ghats are shown dark, the mid grey shading corresponds to the Dekkan highlands, the north, on its side, shows especially bright and represents by this the lowlands of the Indus valley and the Ganges basin. But how could the different grey-shadings on the coins have been produced? Only by the different depths of the engravings which give under the incidence of light the right grey tone.

There is an other difference between my interpretations and those of McMenamin. McMenamin sees on this map in America the most western, and in India the most eastern end to which the Phoenicians could reach. Against that I hold the opinion, that this representation shows a world map based on the apprehended sphere shape of the earth, and finally gives nothing other than the journey sites of the Phoenicians when they have driven around the globe. These journeys were interpreted by me in my "Odyssey".

The next question in this scheme of things is the following: were peoples of the antiquity able, i.e. did they have the technical capabilities to make such microscopical little designs? In the auction catalogue for "Antique Coins" from D. Gorny GmbH on April 29th, 1997, two greek coins were offered for auction on which the sculptors, surely without permission, have immortalized themselves with their names as artist's signatures, and in such a small shape also, that it is nearly not to distinguish (Gorny, 1997: 13). Here we have a proof, that such magnifying glass tiny mintings really have existed.

A reason for the insert of secretly engraved coins in antiquity could perhaps be found by the television film "The Secret of the Cocain Mummy" (ORF: 3.7.1997), and by Balabanova, "Migration & Diffusion": Vol.1, Nr.2, April-June 2000, p.110. Henut Tani, Ruler of the Both Land (21st dynasty in Egypt) was buried in the depth of desert 3000 years ago. Her mummy lay for millenniums in sandy soil until it was acquired by the Bavarian King Ludwig I. at the beginning of the 19th century, and is now in possession of the Bavarian Museum in Munich. In 1992 a research project at the Institute for Anthropology and Human Genetics of the University of Munich was started, realized by F. Parsche, W. Pirsig and the toxicologist Svetlana Balabanova, from the Institute for Legal Medicine at the University of Ulm. The results brought by S. Balabanova were as surprising as sensational: in the tissue samples as in the hairs of the mummy evidence for tobacco and cocain could be provided. Since these results were depreciated by the experts immediately, S. Balabanova made, too, an hair follicle test at the mummy's. If of an hair follicle proof for an addictive drug can be given, the drug must have been consumed by the dead one during lifetime, and it will not be degraded after death. This is a Piece of Evidence in Legal Medicine admitted since 25 years, and is acknowledged as an absolute proof before law. A misinterpretation hereby may be excluded. The results of that procedure testify S. Balabanova's indication, that in Old Egypt tobacco and cocain have been consumed. It could be shown that in Asia, Europe and Africa tobacco must

have been known a long time before Columbus. Regarding cocaine its origin is restricted to South America solely. A cocaine plant was known in Egypt, but it did not have addiction effects. Cocaine as a drug plant is exclusively resident in Peru and the neighbour countries. The coca plant therefore must have been imported to Egypt. An Old Egypt sea trade with drugs! Egypt had also for other goods as incense and myrrh, trade connections to Arabia and Iraq. Besides, it should be ascertained that in antiquity drugs were used for religious and medical purposes.

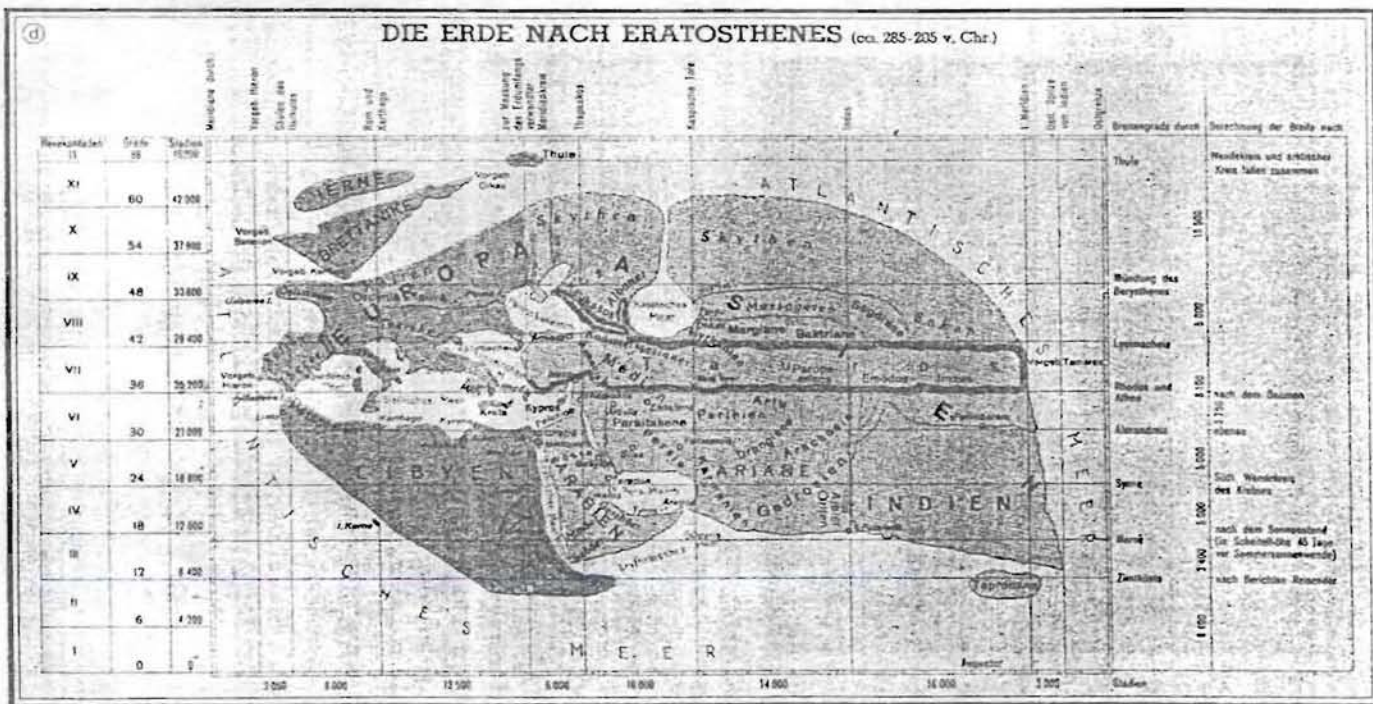
On the base of the last twenty years discoveries we can suppose that the Phoenicians were the drug dealers of Old Egypt. The sea routes of the Phoenicians correspond to the routes I have revealed for the Odyssey and can be considered as such of a world circumnavigation. The Phoenicians brought cocaine from Peru, tobacco from Mexico and from the Pacific shores, opium from Indochina, spices from India, and incense from Arabia. Perhaps those gold coins of the Phoenicians with the engraved maps served as permits for the right to get handed over such important and dangerous products as addictive drugs?

The map McMennamin found on the Phoenician coin demonstrates clearly that America was known to Mediterraneans in antiquity. The precise picture of North America and of the northern South America, with the west coast geographical correctly drawn, confirms that South America has been surrounded by the west. The site of the coins discovered should not be neglected: the Corvo island belonging to the Azores. The Azores lie in field of the Gulf Stream, i.e. of an ocean current from the west to the east. This leads to the conclusion that the seafarers of the coins moved in their direction from America to Europe.

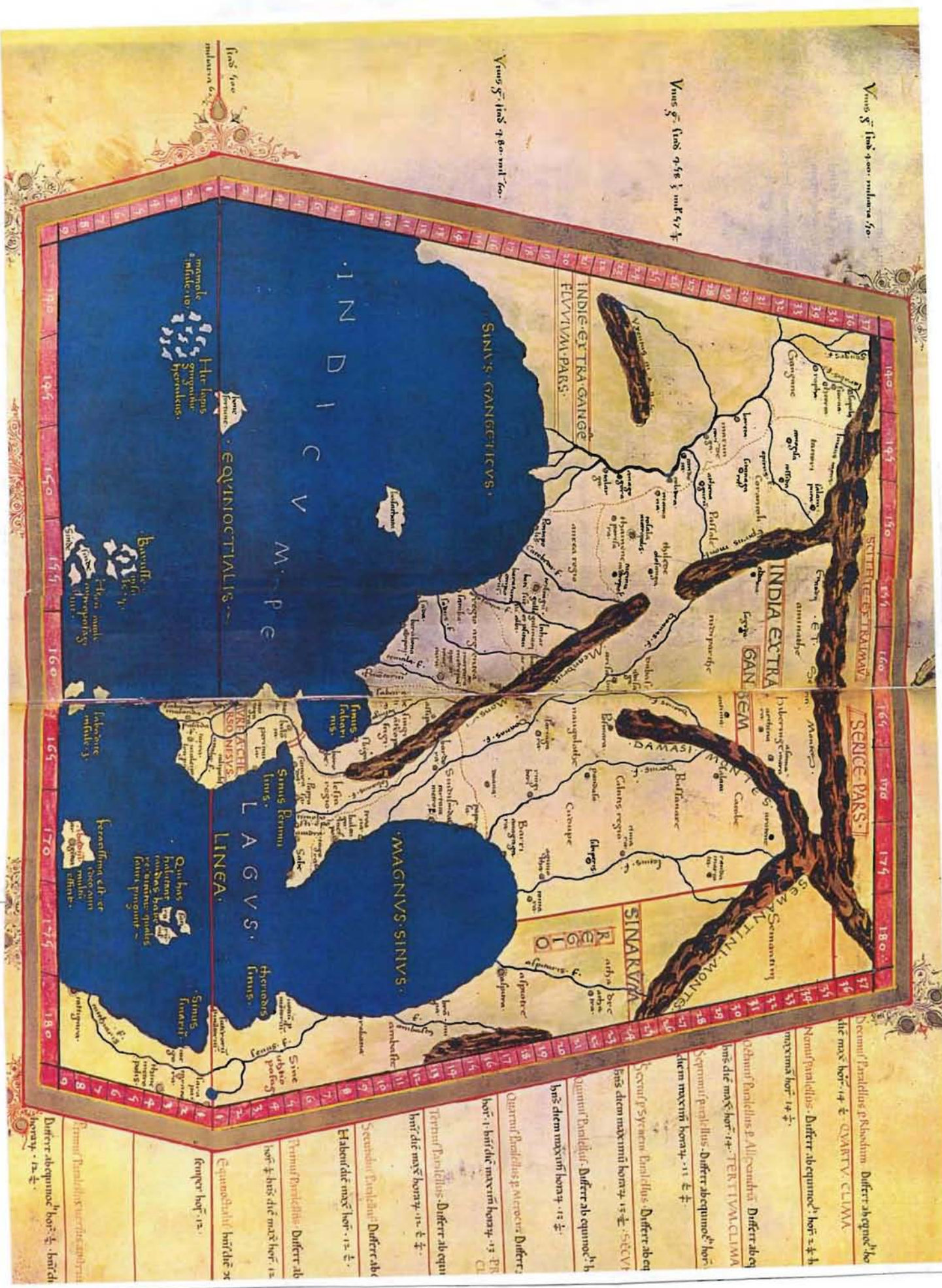
How old those maps really cannot be determined. For the question to answer is the following: did the Phoenicians produce these micro-maps by a self-developed technique, or did they take over this mastery from prior advanced civilizations? Plato indicates such a possibility by his Atlantic tale. To yon time or even to times before the models for the maps of Piri Re'is, Hadji Ahmed and Oronteus Phineus are to be dated. The World Sea Map as a cave painting in NW-Spain detected by myself, is to be timed to 12.000 BC also.

Let us have now a look to the tradition views of antiquity – the earth disk. It ends in the west with the Atlantic and in the east with the Indian peninsula. Exactly so we find it on the map of Eratosthenes (285 – 205 BC). The Indian peninsula in triangular shape makes the end in the east.

Ideas totally different has Ptolemy in the 2nd century AD, in his "Cosmographia". On his map nr.26 we see figured Indochina. Ptolemy in his "Geographia" removes every doubt. Here he gives for Indochina, the Chryse Chersonessos, the geographical longitude of 160° and 4'. As we can see on his map nr.26 the meridian of 160° and 4' runs through the Malay Archipelago. The river Ganges passes in the west of this line. In the east of this there lies the "Magnus Sinus", the great gulf – the Pacific, whose eastern border gives the coast of America. Between Asia and America there is a wide land connection as we have seen also on the map of Hadji Ahmed, referring on a time before 10.000 BC. In the east of the "Magnus Sinus" – the Pacific – is drawn a great mountain range, corresponding in reality to the Rocky Mountains. In the area of America there is a lake at the equator which should perhaps portray the Titicaca lake. Essential for this map is the detail, that Indochina is drawn a bit jutting out of the equator. American always a lot down to south. Finally it must be pointed out that this map, as the World Map of Ptolemy - the map nr.1 – is a segment map. This is, the southern hemisphere is only depicted unto the 20° southern latitude. As we can see here also Ptolemy must have touched maps which were made around 10.000 BC. I, personally, harbour the opinion that



Map of Eratosthenes (285-205 BC)



Map Nr.26 of Ptolemy (150 AD)



also a map showing America as a continent was present in that map collection, but later was removed and exists, perhaps, yet under lock.

That Indochina was known confirms Pomponius Mela (43/44 AD), too, in his work "Des Pomponius Mela drey Bücher von der Lage der Welt" ("Pomponius Mela's three books about the lay of the world") (Pomponius Mela, 1827: 219). There he describes among others two peninsulae. The one the island Chryse and the other the island Argyre. By Argyre the Romans named the silver ground and by Chryse the golden one. This is, the Roman merchant ships called at the Indian peninsula to load silver and gems; the also traded gold came from Indochina, the Chryse island.

By the next map we leave antiquity and come to Florence in the year 1489 where we find the World Map of Henricus Martellus Germanus, three years before the official discovery of America by Columbus. In the west we find Europe and Africa, in the midst of the map Asia with the Indian peninsula. India was given on the map, in relation to reality, always too little, the offshore island Sri Lanka many times too great. These proportions we find at Ptolemy's also. The sketched in "Sinus Gangeticus" corresponds to the gulf of Bengal, the sea between India and Indochina. Indochina is cartographed together with the Malay Archipelagos. In the east there borders on again the "Sinus Magnus", the Pacific. He is shrunk in his given extent, but therefore the American continent until to the southern tip is totally delineated. The wide land passage from Asia to America remembers again the land connection of the both continents in a time about 10.000 BC and before – in the ice age. Also essential the precise representation of South America in the south of the Amazon basin. Important also the hint that South America extends much longer to south than Indochina. When Indochina reaches only tightly to the equator, South America goes always to the southern tropic or even beyond. From these facts we can conclude that maps from a time before 10.000 BC were fundamental to the map of Henricus Martellus Germanus. There is a proof again that the knowledge of this ancient cartography was preserved over a time of more than 12.000 years.

The next map I would consider is plate nr.11 of the "Planisphere of Cantino", Lisbon 1502. On this map we find in the west the Caribbean, and in too large a width, the north-eastern coast of Brazil. In direction to east follows the Atlantic with Europe and Africa. Then comes the Arabian peninsula, and India with Sri Lanka. However, after India there follows a curiosity. Theoretically there should be Indochina, but what was practically depicted is according to its shape the American continent. Since on the old maps the southern point of South America regularly tends to west, and the southern point of Indochina to east, we can conclude that this picture should show South America. The sketched sea corresponds, anyway, to the Pacific, perhaps together meant with the gulf of Bengal. Simultaneously, the mainland reaches deep to the south, almost unto the tropic of Capricorn.

An especially interesting map is the World Map of Martin Waldseemüller, Strasbourg 1507. Here we find the curious phenomenon that America is sketched twice. In the west we have North- and South America and the Caribbean islands. For the extension of the North- and South American continents there were practically no images giving reality, as for the width of the Atlantic. Then follow Europe and Africa, Asia and Arabia, India and Indochina. Indochina reaches again lightly over to the south of the equator as on the maps mentioned above. In the east of Indochina there is anew the "Magnus Sinus", the Pacific, anyway gone there a little more narrow. Then comes the straight coast line of the American continent, going beyond the tropic of Capricorn to south. The broad land connection belongs to the traditional view to be reduced to the ice age circumstances about 10.000 BC.



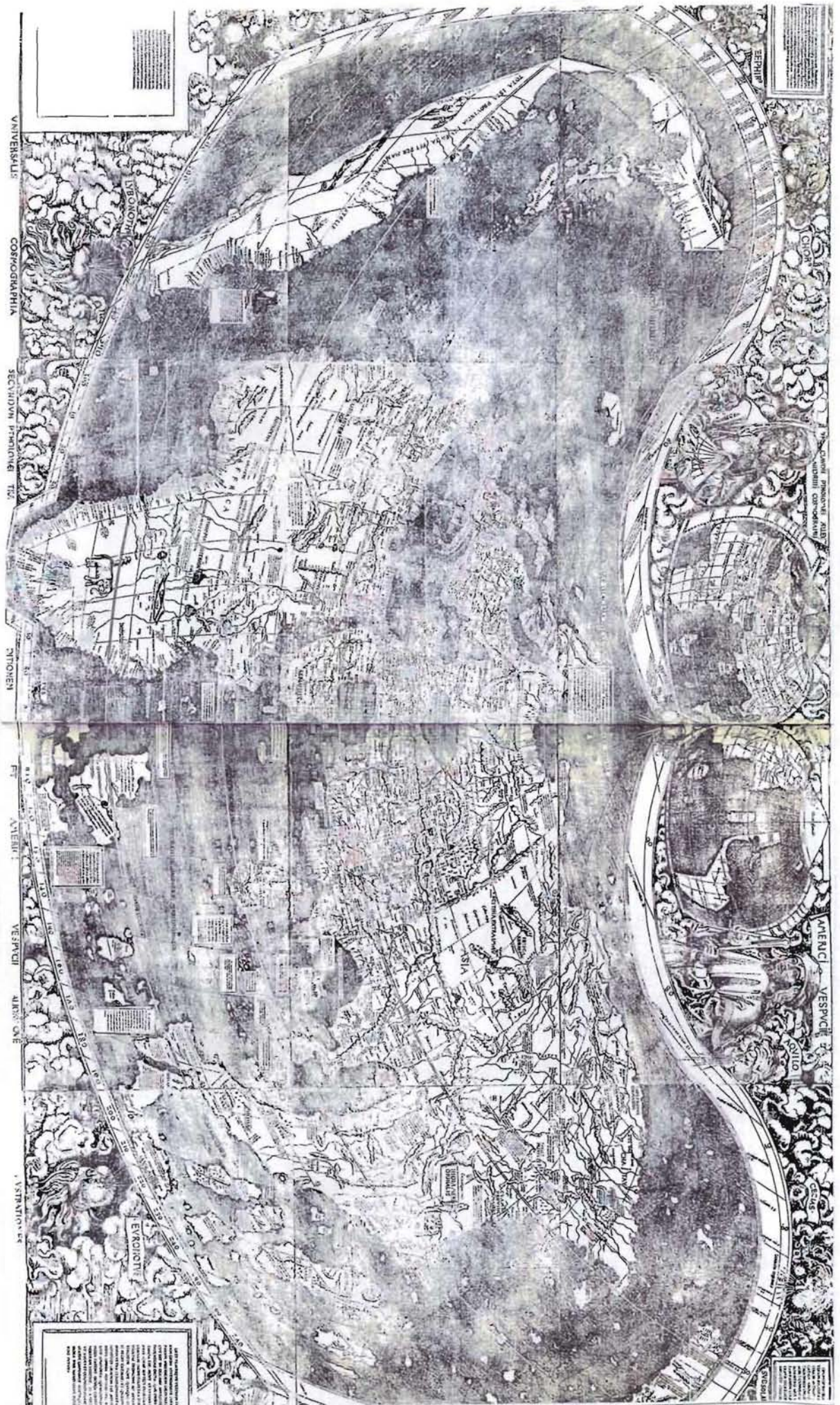
World Map of Henricus Martellus Germanus (1489)



Bild 29a: Henricus Martellus Germanus



"Planisphere of Cantino" Plate Nr.11 (Lisbon 1502)



World Map of Martin Waldseemüller (Strasbourg 1507)

This map shows again that the cartographers about 1500 AD took back to primordial models they did not understand, and mixed them with the new findings the age of discoveries has brought. They had only a very misty idea about the measures of the continents and the surrounding oceans. So we have on the Waldseemüller map the oddity that America is delineated on its both sides, in the west and also in the east.

The next map I will expand on is the World Map of Francesco Rosselli, the plate 17B, drawn about 1508. Here we find a lot of interesting details. In the west there are the eastern parts of North- and South America together with the Caribbean islands. Quite in the east, we meet there the completions of North- and South American continents and find them as separated landmasses. Again in the western side, from the Atlantic ocean eastwards, we find Europe, Africa and Asia. In details to see the Arabian peninsula and an huge street of Hormus. Adjacent to these straits India in its triangular form is drawn, then the old-styled India with the much too great island of Sri Lanka as we have yet seen at Ptolemy's. Then the gulf of Bengal with Indochina. To Indochina itself borders again the "Magnus Sinus", the Pacific, shown especially narrow. Also we see the wide land connection of the ice age between Asia and America, and in the east of the "Magnus Sinus" the imagined American continent overlapping the tropic of Capricorn in its southern extent. Remarkable is, that the "newly discovered" North American continent is seen with a land bridge to Asia. Also on the map of Francesco Rosselli the Antarctica, officially discovered in 1818. On this map reappear the misunderstandings of the contemporary cartographers about the distributions of the land masses around the globe. The old not well understood records were mingled with the new discoveries.

Let us look now to the World Map of Giovanni Matteo Contarini (died 1507). In the west on the map we can find the coast of Brazil. The land mass in the NW of the map means North America, the following the Caribbean islands. North America in the NW closes to the land mass in the NE. This is, we have the same picture as in the previous World Map of Francesco Rosselli. After the Atlantic we see Europe, Africa and Asia, Arabia, the street of Hormus, and India according to the new view. For an other time we find India with the too much enlarged offshore island Sri Lanka. Then comes Indochina with the too much enlarged gulf of Bengal and the too much scaled down "Sinus Magnus", the Pacific. Adjacent the land connection between Asia and the continent of America, going back to the 10.000 BC, with the used representation of South America striding over the tropic of Capricorn.

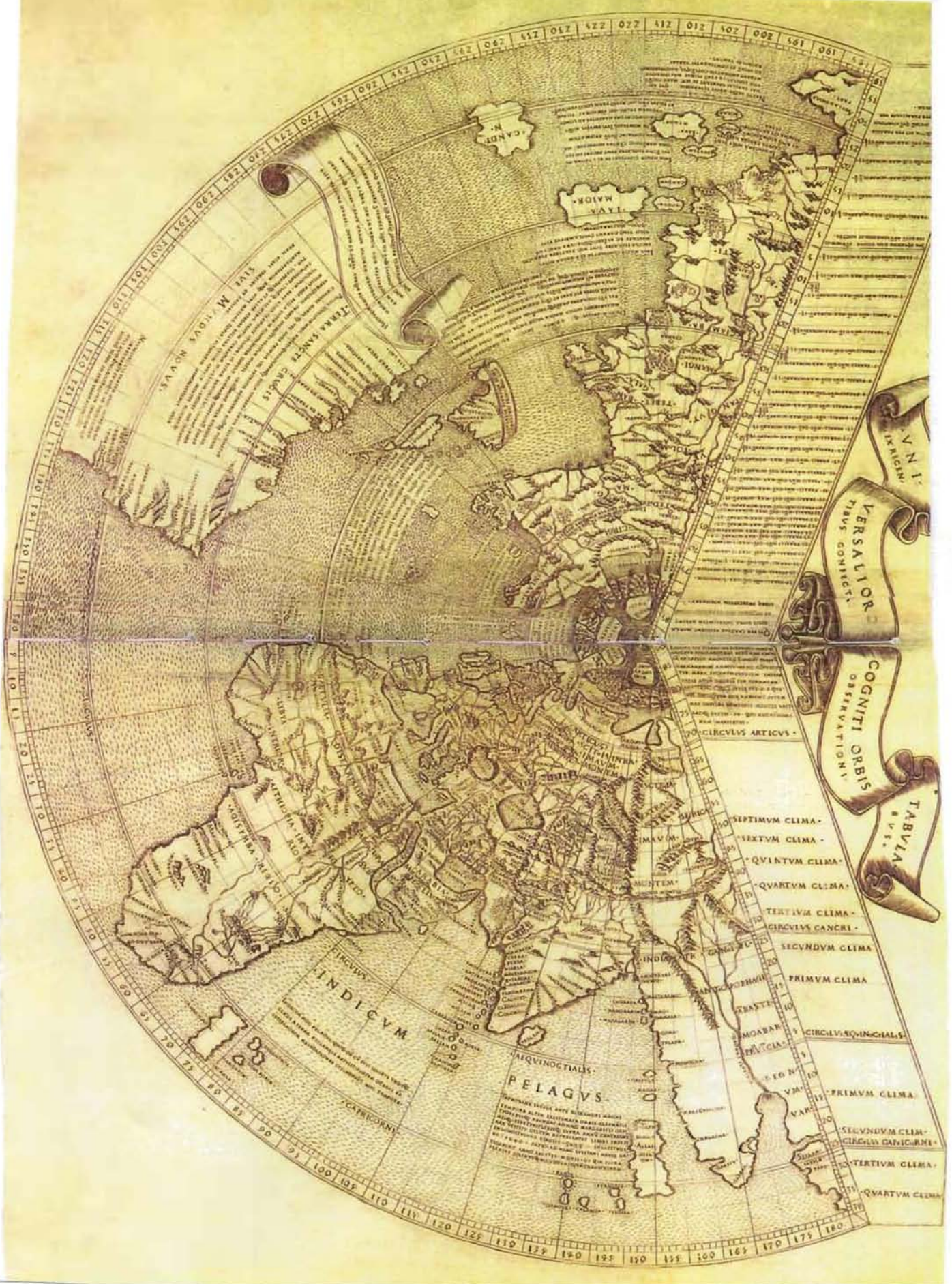
Qite the same phenomenon in relation to America we find on the World Map of Johannes Ruysch (died 1533). In the west North- and South America, not compounded, and in the midst of these land masses islands which should give the Caribbean island group. In the NW the eastern coast line of North America, in the south the discrete coast line of NE Brazil. What on this map is almost geographically correct, are Europe, Africa and Asia until Indochina. For the first time the geographical proportion of the space between India and Sri Lanka is shown correctly. Against this, Indochina is given not further according to the old images, this is, the picture has become worse, only based on presumption. The gulf of Bengal reaches a space much too large, the Pacific is more minimized. The old land bridge between Asia and America is to be found again, more broaded as ever, and also the old form of America is drawn anew. Indochina has a shape transgressing the tropic of Capricorn, America reaches much more far to the south. On this map also the presumption, that the new America would be connected to the land mass of Asia.

The next map under scrutiny is Mercator's World Map from 1538. Let us begin with the southern hemisphere. Also here we meet Antarctica, discovered only 1818, drawn as a

World Map of Giovanni Matteo Contarini (died 1507)



World Map of Johannes Ruysch (died 1533)



mainland around the South Pole. South America is sketched out much more precisely and reaches far to the south, near to Antarctica, as in reality. Africa also corresponds in its southern extension with reality. The mapping of the northern parts with the Asia coast in the south shows Arabia, India with Sri Lanka, and Indochina, to be continued, after the old tradition, with the "Sinus Magnus", the Pacific. We find the lasting land connection recording 10.000 BC and the following American continent. But at the same time a newly discovered continent, separate by an ocean, North America. Also precised, the land connections between North- and South America with the offshore island group of the Caribbean. On Mercator's World Map from 1538 there is the double figure of America, like that of Pacific, the first one with land bridge, the other one without. The first one a performance of a no more understood tradition, the other one the knowledges of the age of discovery. For the first time on a map the Arctic, the North Pole with a wide land access to Asia. This land access, as the spread of ice over Greenland, are to be reduced to the real circumstances in that area at the ice age about 10.000 BC.

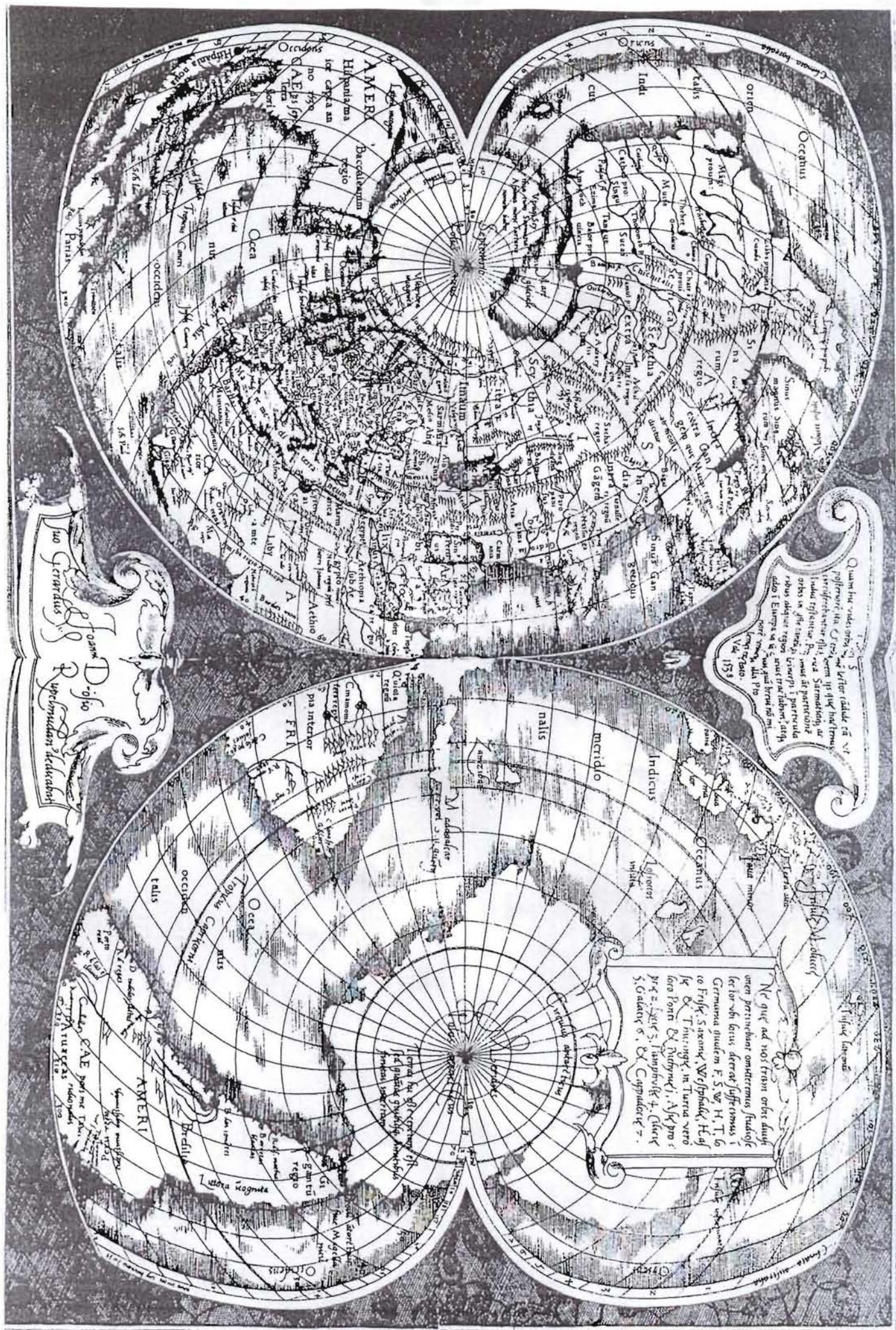
The last map I want to describe is the World Map of Jodocus Hondius, London ca. 1589. Here we find a rather accurate representation of the earth with Europe, Africa, Asia and America. Noticeable on this map the much too large drawn Antarctica named "Terra Australis". In 1589 at the time of the mapping, the Antarctica were unknown anyway. Also noticeable on the western hemisphere of the earth is the portray of an island designated above as "Nova Guinea". In an upside-down form (north – south) it remembers the shape of Australia. Australia itself was not discovered at this time. The Antarctica in relation to reality is made too large and Australia too small. Australia is vicinal to geographic truth by touching nearly the equator by its northern extension. On the discovery of Australia is to remark that the Dutchmen as the first ones reached the NW coast at the beginning of the 17th century; but the entire coast line was only known since 1802, as we find it rather true on the map of Jodocus Hondius from 1589 (Brockhaus Enzyklopädie 1967 ff., vol.2: 134).

On the base of the now discussed maps we can conclude that the ideas about the distribution of continents and oceans must be reduced to a time earlier than 10.000 BC. We can see that the geographic terms were copied from old maps without understanding again and again, although the

land- and the sea connections have changed fundamentally through the millenniums. For an example may be mentioned the land bridge between Asia and America from at least a time before 10.000 BC. The maps sketched by the cartographers of the 15th and 16th centuries also could not have been well understood by them. We find countries which were discovered not yet at these times, and at the other hand we see double sites of land masses, as of America and the Indian subcontinent, or an old picture from the Arctic, pointing to the ice age before 10.000 BC.

The final query to be solved is: in which shape has it been possible to conserve and to transmit such a knowledge? That it was conserved allows no doubt, since the maps with their topographically precise representations of the earth speak for themselves.

We must quite simply take note of the fact that in Egypt, the country of the most ancient and an explored culture, these maps have turned up. The Egyptians knew the spherical shape of the earth, and the Phoenicians in their service made world trips along routes which I have described in my book about the Odyssey by Homer. The journey of the Argonauts, by Apollonios of Rhodes, also deciphered by myself, shows a world comprising cultural understanding and seafaring. The both epics deal with the idea of the earth globe, out of the science of ancient Egypt.



It is interesting in this perspective to take for remark, that John Anthony West and the geologist Robert Schoch from the Boston University, for geological – mineralogical, and Robert Bauval and Graham Hancock for astronomical reasons give to the Sphinx of Gizeh an age about 10.000 years. West and Schoch found out that the Sphinx show traces of intensive erosion as caused only by heavy rainfalls over long periods. Therefore it can be supposed that the Sphinx was carved out before this rain period, not during and not after it, because those traces need for their appearance a greater time space not available in that their shape after a later beginning of the work. The watery transit period covers a time from the end of ice age with 10.000 BC until to the interglacial epoch around 5000 BC. Bauval and Hancock for themselves have found out that the Sphinx' line of vision goes to sunrise on the day of vernal equinox. From the sign of Lion only head, back and shoulders loom over the celestial horizon, as the Sphinx of Gizeh shows head, back and shoulders over the soil. The heaven- and the earth pictures add all up only in the years around 10.500 BC.

From the most ancient Egypt culture those maps went through the past to younger times. First they would be held in archives of temples or hideouts specialized to their preservation. Then use copies from imperishable originals were made to be stored in restricted libraries, e.g. in Alexandria. Since those maps were important for commerce and for scientific purposes they stayed in reserve and secrecy.

In the time of the Ptolemaean kings in Egypt – a period of Egyptian maritime power – some maps went into the marine archives, and from there to the Byzantine Admiralty archives in Constantinople.

After 1204, in the time of the Latin Empire in Constantinople, Venetian merchants could take hold in these information schemes for about sixty years. Lots of Greek manuscripts were brought by Byzantine fugitives to Italy. When Constantinople was captured by Mohammed II. In 1453 a stock rest of maps went over to the area of Islam. Now they were in disposition for Piri Re'is as Great Admiral of the Ottoman fleet.

The Catholic Church had also access to this knowledge for a longer time, namely in the time after the crusades. The thence copied maps were known to the Vatican and to the Republic of Venice. So we can conclude that Marco Polo, too, went out to China not without cartographical informations. The journey to China led overland, the return over sea.

This knowledge was brought to Europe at the crusade times also by the Knights Templars, who stored it in their own strongholds.

In Portugal the Order of the Templars was transformed, after his official dissolution, into the Order of Christ. The father- in -law of Christoph Columbus was a member of the Order of Christ himself, and was instituted on the island of Porto Santo beneath Madeira as representative of the king. After his death Columbus inherited his maps. By the information out of these maps and out of those he could examine at the Order of Calatrava – an other clone of the Templars -, Columbus was able to convince the royal couple in Spain for his journey to the west. Finally, Henry the Navigator was Grand Master of the Order of Christ, and surely has put forward the nauticals of his time by the science belonging to this his office.

All the maps discussed in this article, foremost the ones of Piri Re'is, Hadji Ahmed, Oronteus Phineus, inclusive the 14.000 years old World Sea Map discovered by myself, lead to the sole conclusion: that the earth with all the continents and oceans must have been known since at least 14.000 years. The maps of Piri Re'is and of Hadji Ahmed force us by the precision of

their issuing and their cartographical skills to become convinced that these maps reflect the knowledge of a declined high civilization.

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Correspondence address:

Dr. Christine Pellech

Zehenthofg.19/RH.1
A-1190 Vienna
Austria

Tel: ++43-(0)1-320-59-20
Fax: ++43-(0)1-320-59-205

e-mail: christine.pellech@chello.at
Website
www.pellech.at
www.migration-diffusion.info