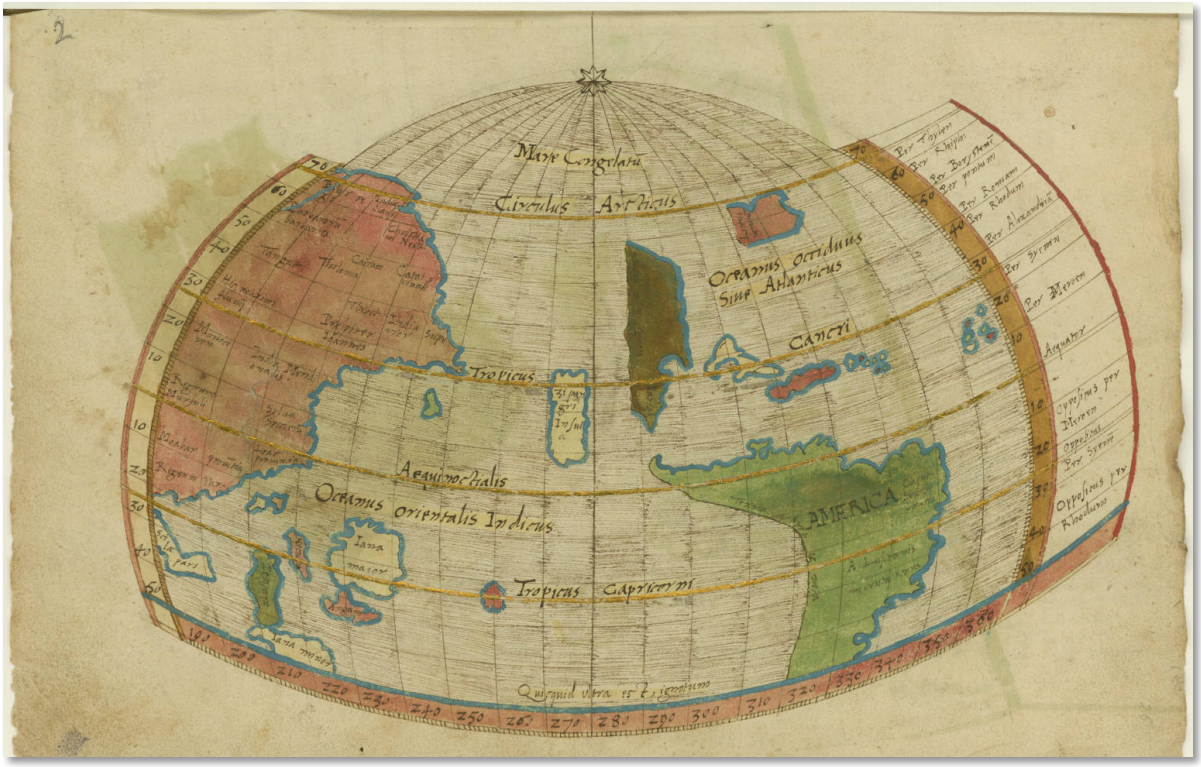



*De geometriae principiis ad sphaerae astronomicae noticiam neces sariis. caput primum*

**Cartograher:** Henricus Glareanus, 1488-1563
**Date:** 1513
**Size:** 16.7 x 26.6 cm
**Location:** John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, RI

There is in The John Carter Brown Library an early draft, believed to be in the author's hand, of the *De Geographia* of Glareanus, containing, by way of illustration, six maps, beautifully drawn and delicately colored. These maps comprise copies of the Waldseemüller world map of 1507 *(#310),* of each of the hemispheric insets upon that map, of the Ruysch map of 1508 *(#313),* and, Glareanus' original contribution, two circumpolar hemispheres. There are only minor differences between the maps copied from Waldseemüller and Ruysch in the Providence manuscript and those at Munich and Bonn, but there are very important differences between the hemispheres in the Bonn sheet and those in the Providence book, for in the Providence drawings the two hemispheres are of equal size and the land masses in the southern hemisphere are projected correctly, east to west running counter-clockwise in the delineation.

It is clear that the Providence maps are of somewhat later date than those at Munich and Bonn. Just how much later seems difficult to determine. Various authorities have described them as before 1513, before 1516, or before 1520. Though of unusual beauty, fullness, and significance, the maps of this manuscript are less well known than those at Munich and Bonn, for until its purchase by the Library in 1912, it had been in private hands for nearly four centuries. So far as known, its maps were never described until the year 1905.

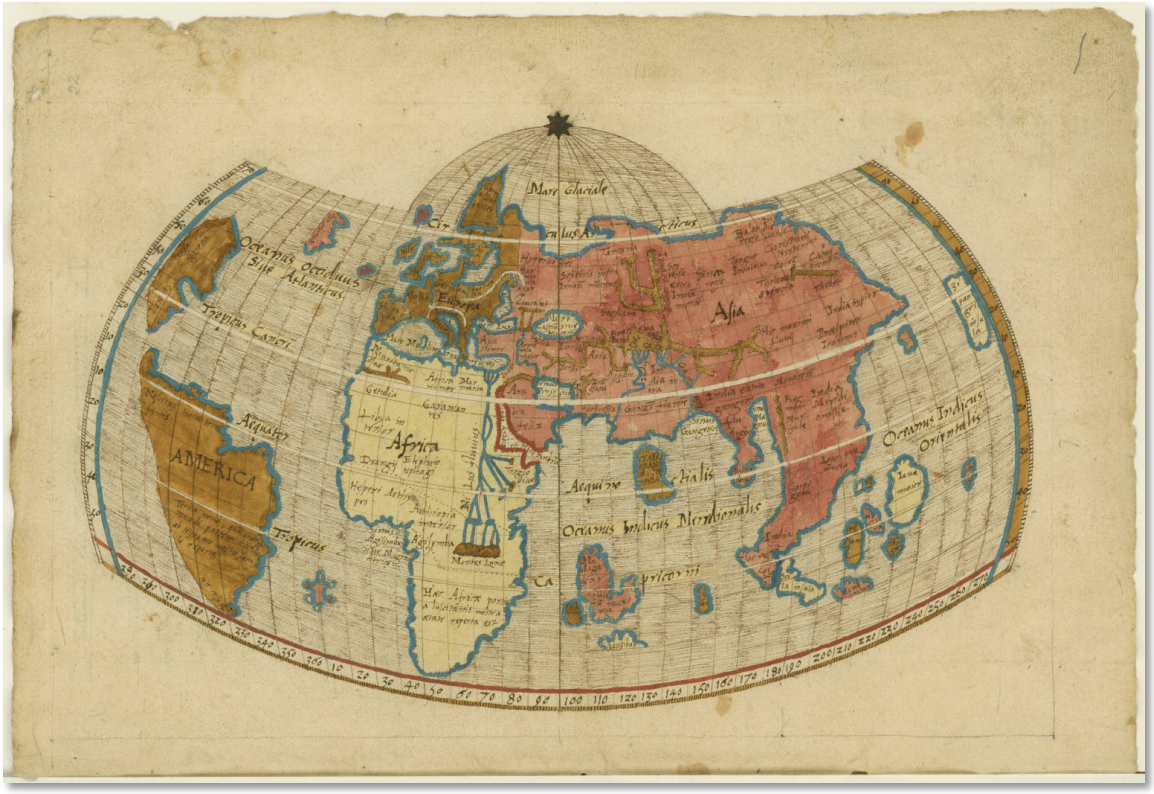
Aside from its historic interest as preserving the Waldseemüller concepts, it is the perfected Glareanus hemispheres that give the chief significance to this manuscript. The relatively correct placing of the continents and islands in the southern hemisphere

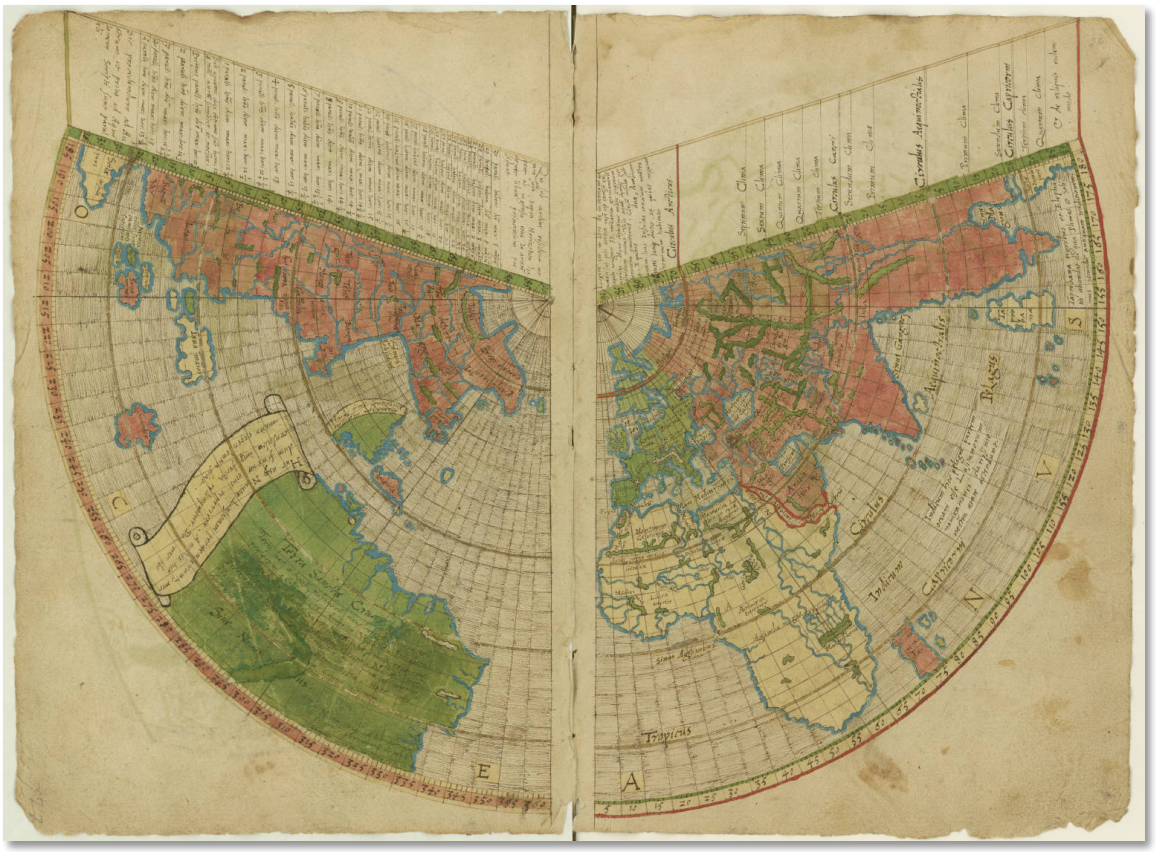
marks the occurrence, in the space of a quarter century or less after Bartholomeu Dias, of an extraordinary advance in geographical knowledge and cartographical method. Here in a single picture are to be seen the South Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific, Southern Africa, a part of South America designated *Amerige*, the false Indo-China peninsula, the tip of the Malay Peninsula, the tip of *Taprobana*, and the island of Madagascar. When one reflects that in 1488, twenty-two years before the first construction in 1510 of the Glareanus hemispheres, Europe had just learned of the rounding of the Cape of Good Hope, and that at that time America had not been discovered, nor India reached by the water route from Europe, nor Madagascar seen and correctly located, this representation of all these lands and their encompassing oceans in broadly correct relationship of position, bespeaks a startling growth in man's knowledge of the world he lived in. Born in 1488, the year of the Dias achievement, the young Swiss scientist had grown to manhood along with this new world of the south, east, and west. He could understand and delineate it boldly while elder scholars must still make timid essays into reaches unknown to their youth.

In the Glareanus polar hemispheres, as in those in which Waldseemüller three years before had divided the world into eastern and western halves, we recognize the constructive imagination at work, resulting, in this as in the earlier instance, in the creation of an hypothetical Pacific. In his northern hemisphere, Glareanus has employed the American configuration of Waldseemüller and has separated the new continent from Asia by a sea in the middle of which lies Japan. In the southern hemisphere that sea lying to the westward between South America and the Malay Peninsula suddenly broadens and joins itself at east and west to the Atlantis and Indian Oceans. Stretching to the poles at north and south bounded on the west by Asia, on the east by America, we have in these notable little maps the broad Pacific virtually as we know it. When one recalls the guessing, the groping, and the fumbling which characterize so many printed maps of the 16th century, one wonders why this truly distinguished production in the form in which it is found in the Providence codex failed to fine its way into print for the illumination of the contemporary world.

The *De Geographia* of Glareanus is reputed an indifferent performance chiefly because its applications had been outmoded by the time the book was published in 1527. If the manuscript of 1510-1520 now at Providence had been published with the maps we have described at any time before Magellan's voyage, the world of that period would have been the richer by a notable work of geography.

The first map, shown above, is of the world showing part of North and South America as two islands. Cartographic elements include lines of latitude and longitude. Derived from the Ptolemy and Vespucci hemispheres that are inset at the top of Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 world map *(#310),* but expanded to include America. Image is placed horizontally on page. The author, Henri Loriti or Heinrich Loritz, was called Glareanus after his birthplace, Glaris, in Switzerland.


Mare Glaciale
Asia
Europa
Africa
AMERICA
Aequinoctialis
Oceanus Occidentalis
Sive Atlanticus
Tropicus Cancri
Aequator
Tropicus
Oceanus Indicus Meridionalis
Oceanus Indicus
Orientalis

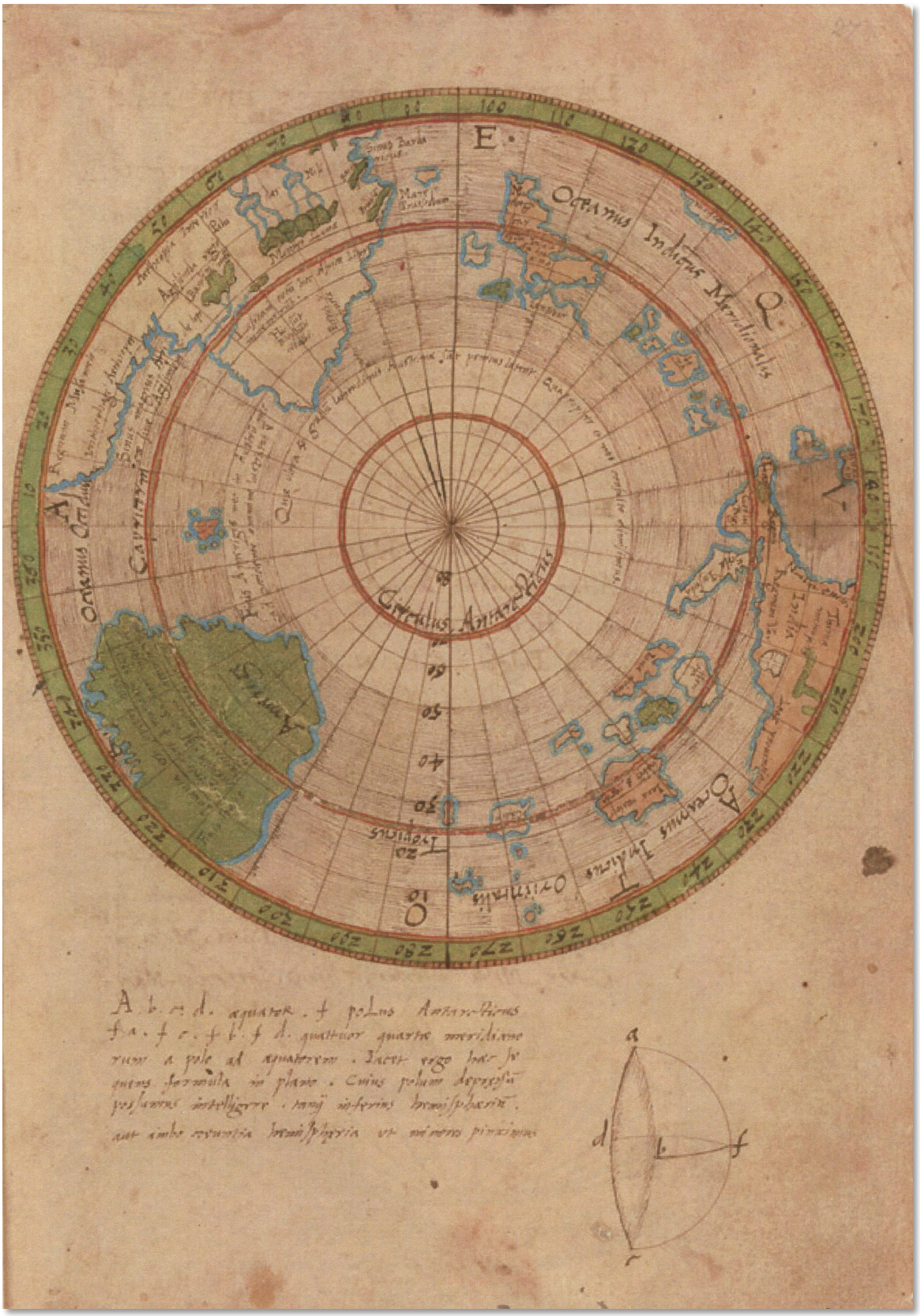



*A copy of Ruysch's world map of 1507-08 (#313)*
*Map of the world showing Hispaniola, South America as an island, and both Greenland and New England as part of Asia. Cartographic elements include lines of latitude and longitude.*


*Map of the Arctic Circle projected from the North Pole, showing part of North and South America as two islands, some Caribbean islands, and a large island to the west of North America. Cartographic elements include lines of latitude and longitude.*


Oceanus Occidentalis
Tropicus Cancri
Aphrica
Tropicus Capricorni
Mare Glaciale seu Forrenum
ASIA
Aequator
Oceanus Indicus Meridionalis


Tropicus Cancri
Oriens Occidentalis
Tropicus Capricorni




*The South Pole by* Henricus Glareanus