



The chart was originally folded and bound into front of the accompanying volume by an extension which bears a coat of arms. Guillaume Brouscon was a Breton cartographer of the Dieppe school in the 16th century. He was from the port of Le Conquet, near Brest, which is shown prominently in large red lettering on his 1543 map of the world. He published his Brouscon's *Almanachs* in 1546, which were used for their information on tides by English, French and Breton sailors; allowing them to know the direction of tidal currents, and to calculate tide level depending on the phase of the moon. This world chart, which includes America and a large promontory of the *Terre Australe* [*Terra Australis*] is inscribed in its northern part *terre de lucac* (Locach) and America and a large *Terra Java* (Australia?).

Chet Van Duzer states that in 1543 Guillaume Brouscon, who was from Le Conquet, a few hundred kilometers southwest of Dieppe, near Brest, made a manuscript atlas of nautical charts showing the tidal currents of the Atlantic coast from northern Spain to Denmark and around the British Isles, together with a fold-out world map. Brouscon produced other almanacs, including some that were printed or combinations of manuscript and print, but the 1543 manuscript is the only of his surviving works to include a world map, and that map shows clear affinities with the Norman tradition of cartography. It is tempting to take the coat of arms in the map's lower right corner,

which are those of Artus de Cossé-Brissac, Marechal de France (1512-82), as those of the commissioner of the manuscript; but Louis Dujardin-Troadec points out that Cossé-Brissac did not receive these arms until 1544, so he must rather be an early owner of the manuscript.

The map's scale of latitude is numbered to 90° N, but the map extends somewhat further north, and to 70° S, but the map extends well beyond this point in the southeast, to what by extrapolation would be beyond 90° S. The map measures 46 x 68 cm (18.1 x 26.8 in.), but has an extension in the southeast of 18 x 22 cm (7.1 x 8.7 in.) to depict the full southern extent of the huge mythical land mass that on other Norman maps is labeled *l'ave la Grande*, but here is called *terre de luca*. The cartographer thus places great emphasis on the southern continent, and the extension of the map far to the south makes it clear that Brouscon does not believe that the land mass is joined to the land south of South America discovered by Magellan in 1520. Brouscon also shows interest in the New World, for the place names there are denser than they are, for example, in southern Africa; on the other hand, like other early Norman cartographers, he shows little interest in the hinterland of Asia. The most unusual feature of the map is the huge westward distension of South America. Luis Filipe R. F. Thomaz has suggested that this distension represents a misplacing of the western part of the southern continent of *Jave la Grande*, since on other Norman maps it extends much further to the west. Thomaz proposes that the maps that inspired Norman depictions of the southern continent did not clearly indicate where the land was located, and that Brouscon, in consulting those maps, decided to locate that westward bulge on the western coast of South America. No alternative explanation of the westward distension of South America on Brouscon's map comes readily to mind.

The border is highly colored with acanthus leaves and figures. Black ink is used for nomenclature in a minuscule script with area names in display script; land masses are outlined in green with islands painted red, blue, gold, or silver; 12 elaborate compass roses with usual 32 rhumb line network in black, red, and green ink are used for the principal directions; four numbered latitude scales (with portions offset) are shown but no longitude is provided; small numbered scale of distance is in gold; colorfully decorated with banners, coats of arms, urns, etc.

The map was probably made in Brittany (Le Conquet, near Brest?) by Guillaume Brouscon. This world chart bears the initials "G. B." and year "1543" in the border. Although the historian Henry Harrisse in *Découverte* and others have ascribed the work to Giovanni Benedetto, it is now attributed to Guillaume Brouscon because of the Breton saints in the calendars, the Breton port nomenclature, and the marked similarity to Brouscon manuscripts in other libraries, such as London, Brit. Lib. Add. 22721 signed and dated 1543 and Cambridge, Magdalene College.

This 1543 world map contains eleven golden compasses that surround an even larger compass situated in the western region of Africa. All of these golden compasses resemble the sun. European flags and crests decorate the New World and Europe. The mapmaker extended a small portion of his map in the right hand corner to include a large European crest. Brouscon did not complete the Western and Northern borders of North America. Note that Brouscon's portrayal of South America is shaped oddly like an outline of Australia, even to the extent of including Tasmania as a southern peninsula.

Bibliography:

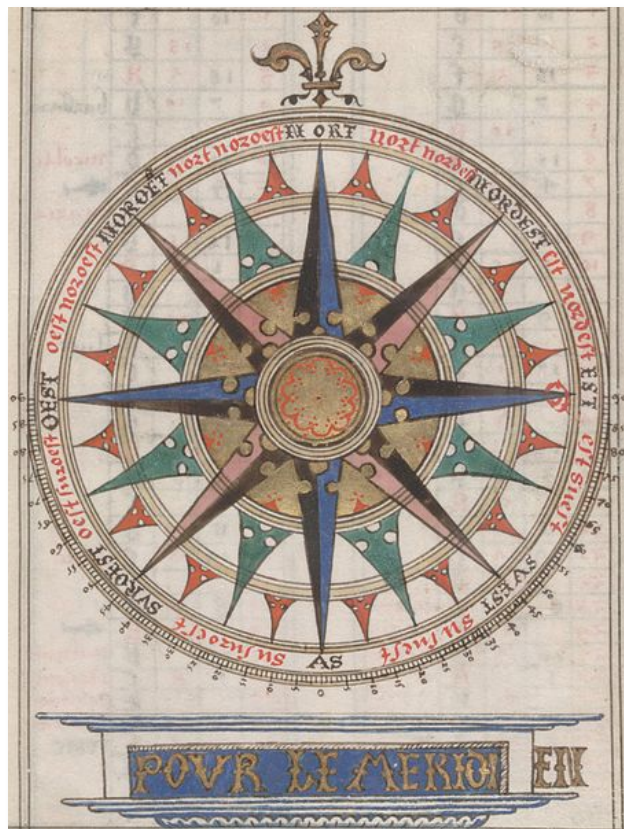
Harris, Découverte, 223-24 with reproduction of portion of North American coastline on frontispiece.

H. Y. Thompson, *Illustrations from One Hundred Manuscripts in the Library of Henry Yates Thompson* (London 1912) 21-22 with reproduction of coat of arms and American section of world chart in pls. 59 and 60.

*Van Duzer, Chet, *The World for a King*, pp.18-19.

*Wolff, H., *America, Early Maps of the New World*, pp.57-58, #72.

Location: HM 46. Portolan Atlas and Nautical Almanac, Date: 1543, Huntington Library, San Marino, California







South America



Terra Austral

The abundant cartographical imagery suggested the fascination of imagining how space extended far beyond a situated eye, and a sort of key to processing the extent of that dramatically expanded spatial expanse of the inhabited world. But for Brousson Java was both a continent of sorts, that extended to the pole, and needed to be accommodated by an extra flap of paper to be contained, but an uninhabited or at least unknown place in the *Terra Austral*, jutting up to Indonesia to reflect geographic tradition and, perhaps, to balance the landmasses distributed elsewhere on the chart.