



Detailed heliotype (?) reproduction of a lesser-known but extremely important early manuscript map of the world drawn by Nicolas Desliens at Dieppe in 1541. Desliens' 1541 map predates the other Dieppe School planispheres that are more widely reproduced and known today (such as the Desliens' map of 1546), but it is arguably more important than all those that followed.

Desliens' rendering of the Canadian coast (particularly the areas covered by Jacques Cartier's second and third voyages), as well as the rendering of *Java la grande*, were cutting edge. The mapping of *Java le grande* is an important piece of evidence that Australia was discovered before 1606. This map is among the earliest, if not the earliest, Dieppe school manuscript map to show *Java le grande* as such. This reproduction is from the collection of the famed early map scholar Edward Luther Stevenson.

The world map by Nicolas Desliens, which bears the date 1541, but this is now generally agreed to be an error for 1561. The cartographer seems to have drawn inspiration from the maps of Desceliers (#378), so it is worth comparing them to see how the latter stands apart from the Norman tradition. Desliens' map is much smaller than Desceliers' world maps, measuring 57.5 x 104 cm (22.6 x 41 in.), but it depicts essentially the same part of the earth's surface (79° N to 57° S, the same as Desceliers' 1553 map). and adopts some of the same graphical conventions. Desliens places the regional place names in the upper part of the map upside down, just as Desceliers does, so as to facilitate reading from the top if the map were laid out on a table, though the map is small enough that the whole thing can easily be consulted from the bottom edge. In some areas, particularly on the northeastern coast of Asia, the northeastern coast of North America, the southwestern coast of South America, and the part of the southern continent south of South America, Desliens adopts Desceliers' characteristic style for depicting unknown coasts: the coastlines are scalloped, with short rivers reaching the sea between adjacent peninsulas.

But in terms of its decorative program Desliens' map is very different from those of Desceliers. On Desceliers' maps, every part of the hinterland is decorated with images of native peoples, animals, mountains, trees, cities, or sovereigns, whereas the only

decorative elements Desliens employs are compass roses and flags. Desceliers' charts, given their large size and elaborate decoration, were very expensive commissions, and to judge from the maps that have come down to us, it was the very upper end of the market that Desceliers was interested in serving.

Reference:

Van Duzer, C., *The World for a King, Pierre Descelier's Map of 1550*, pp. 24-25.



Africa

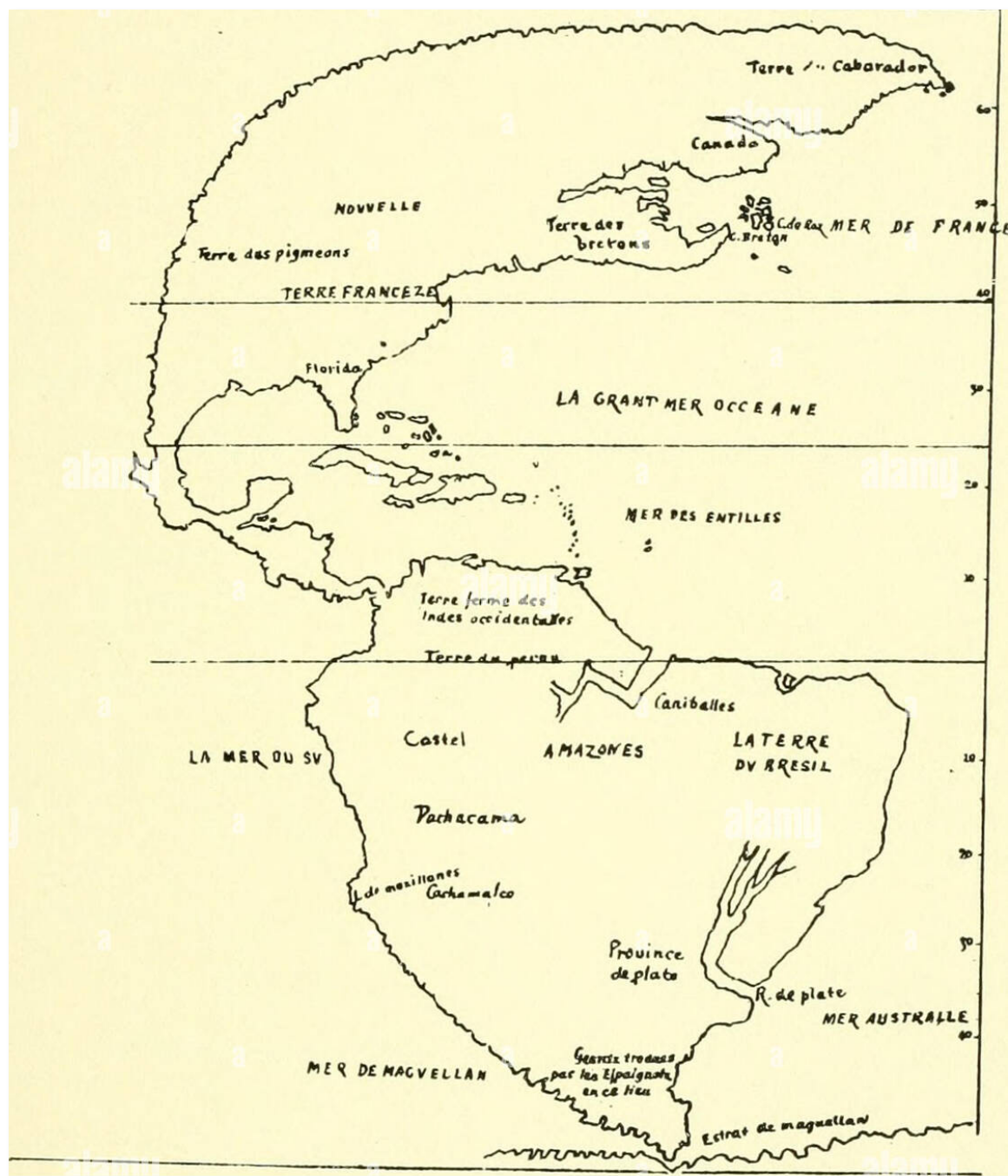


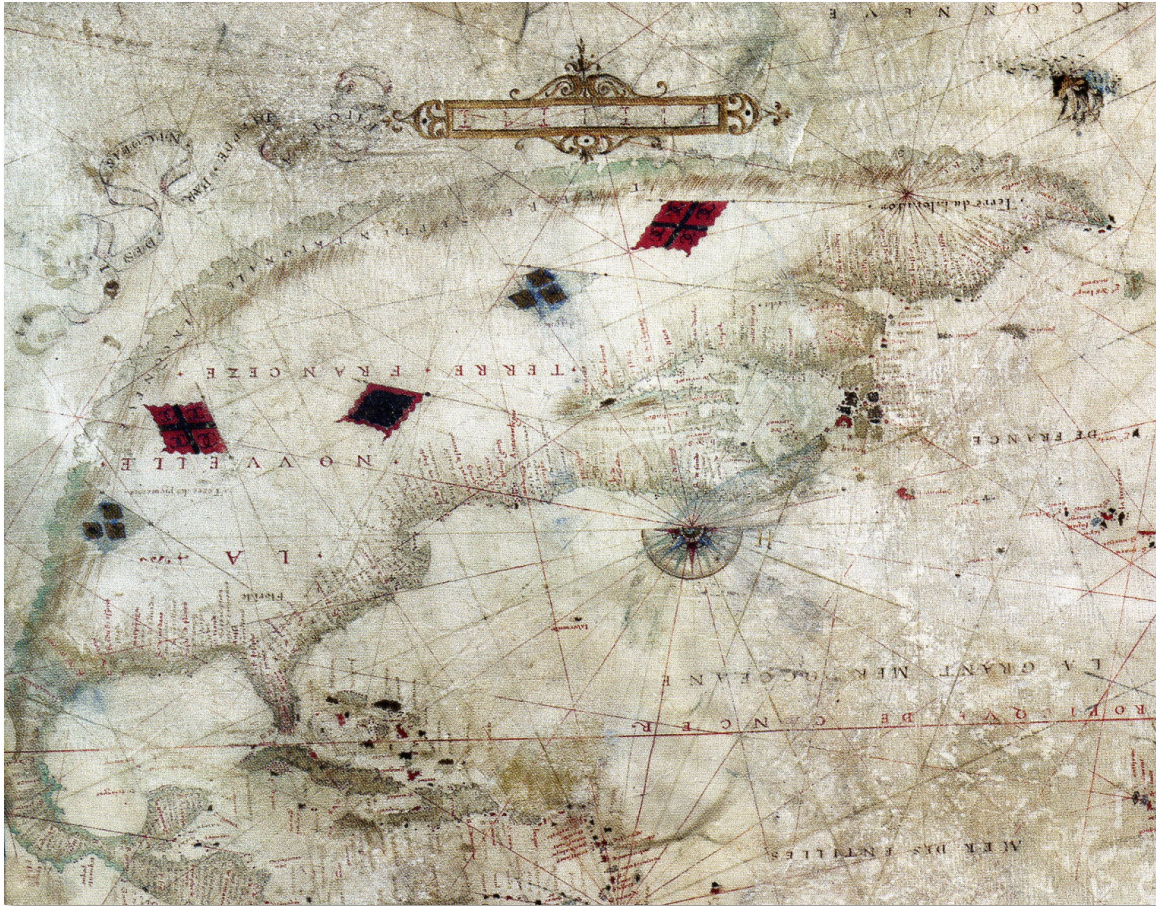
Caspian Sea



Asia







North America



South America



Eurasia



World map of Nicolas Desliens (1566) part of the Dieppe Maps, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris. Oriented with South at the top

This portolan world map, drawn by Nicolas Desliens in 1566, synthesizes Norman hydrographic knowledge in the mid-16th century. It is one of two world maps by Desliens known to exist; the other dates from 1541. The map is oriented with south at the top and north at the bottom, giving it an upside-down look to the modern viewer. *La Nouvelle France occidentale* [Western New France] is written in large letters over an arc-shaped North America. The map shows all territories of the world except part of the western coast of North America, which extends beyond the edge of the map. Most of the Pacific Ocean is not shown and there is no *Zipangu* [Japan]. The map reflects the political affiliations of newly discovered lands. The territories claimed by France are indicated by flags with fleurs-de-lis, in Canada (Labrador), Florida (on the May River), and Brazil (on the Rio de la Plata). Desliens is known only from his work and inscriptions on his maps indicating that he worked in Dieppe and Arques; no biographical information about him survives.



Africa



Asia



Java la Grande



