

A mapp of the north part of the equinoctial . .

**Description:** A highly important map of the world, because of its “firsts”: it is the earliest obtainable map on the *Postel* projection (pre-dating Cornelis de Jode’s world map, #433); quite probably the earliest copper engraved map of the world published in England and the first map published by Jodocus Hondius.

This remarkable circular map depicts a north polar azimuthal equidistant projection extending to the equator. The *Postel* projection is named after the French mathematician Guillaume Postel (1510-1581). The engraving of the map is traditionally attributed to William Rogers, and, if true, then the map is arguably the earliest English world map engraved on copper. However, R.W. Shirley thinks that it might have been engraved by Hondius himself, while living in London. If this is the case, then the map ranks among the earliest engraved works of the master mapmaker. There is some dispute as to whether Hondius himself was ever resident in London (indeed, some

credence to this theory may be given by the fact that Hugh Broughton, the author of the book in which this map appears) was in Amsterdam shortly before the book's publication, but what is known is that the map is a technical masterpiece of engraving, the earliest obtainable *Postel* projection of the world and one of the most important early English maps.

As seen on the upper right, or northern hemisphere, North America and Asia are separated by the mythical *Strait of Anian*, placing Japan very close to the northwest coast of America and Asia. The coastal details in East Asia are derived from *Lafreri* maps, pre-dating the information disseminated in the works of Rughesi and Plancius. The coast of China does not bulge outwards, as it does in reality, but here sweeps diagonally upward, with no sign of Korea (either island or peninsula). The Philippines are also not yet shown in any coherent fashion, as the mapping is still based on Pigafetta's rudimentary reports.

The map is shown here is bound into the original text, *A concent of scripture*, by Hugh Broughton. [Imprinted at London [By Richard Watkins] for Gabriell Simson and William White, [between 1587 and 1591]].

While the book appears occasionally on the market, the world map is virtually always lacking. The last recorded example of the book offered with the map in a dealer catalogue is the Fall 1980 Nico Israel Catalogue and prior to that, the Maggs Catalogue of 1924. The Nico Israel Catalogue refers to the map as "THE RARE CIRCULAR MAP of the Northern Hemisphere in Polar Projection, in all probability after the cartographical design of Jodocus Hondius: this map is often lacking and erroneously described as "added." (No. 89, Illustrated at page 96).

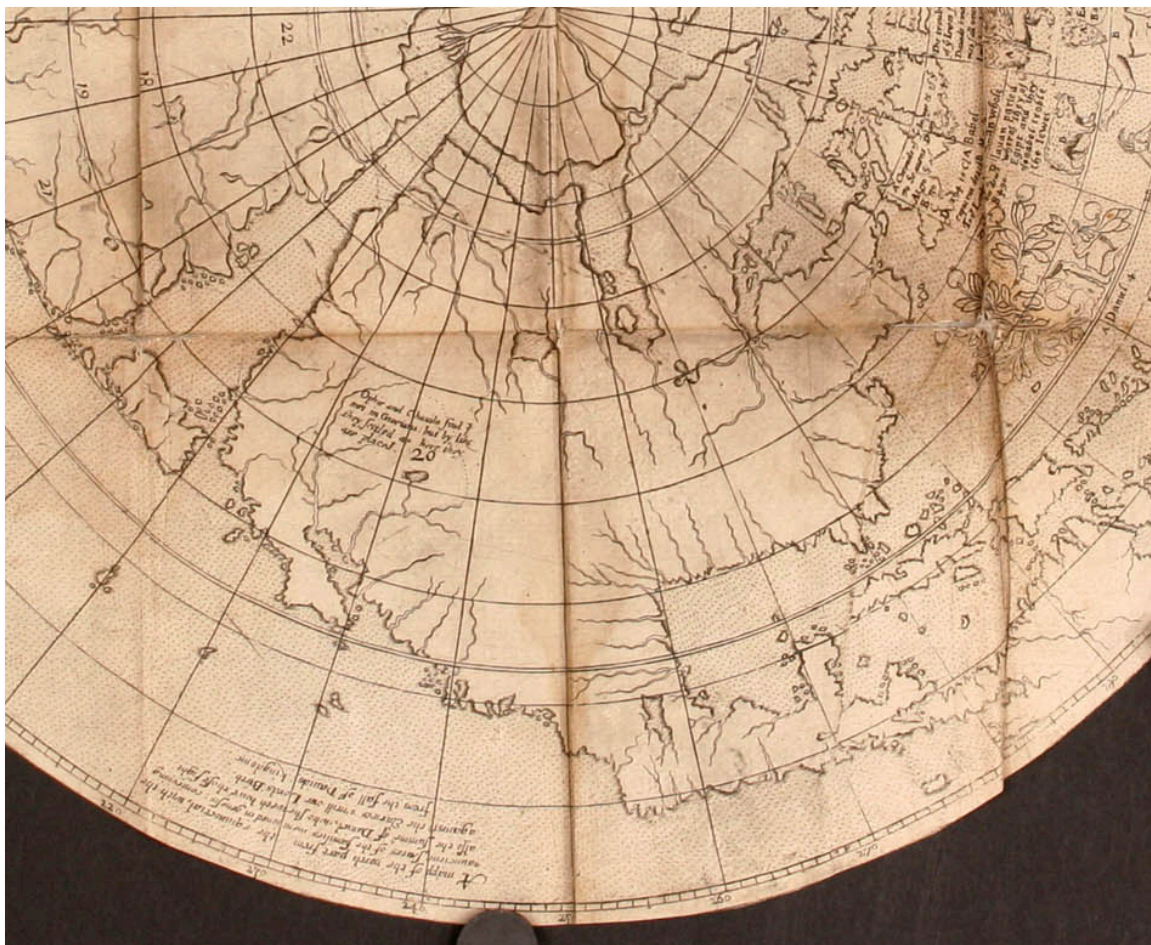
Hugh Broughton (1549-1612), English scholar and divine, gained recognition as a learned, though controversial, expositor of the Bible with this, his first book, which states dogmatically that holy scripture contains all truth. Nowadays, however, the commercial value of the book resides in the present map and a reduced version of Ortelius' oval world map of 1570, which are both frequently lacking. No copies of the book with the folding map have appeared at auction since 1977.

**Map Maker:** Jodocus Hondius/William Rogers

**Place / Date:** London / 1587

**Size:** 21.5 inch diameter





*Detail: North America and Japan*



