



Silver Terrestrial Globe

Germany 1575-1600 (circa)
 2.5 inches diameter
 Johannes Oterschaden (fl. 1580-1603)

This elaborate and finely engraved miniature globe shows an intricately detailed image of the world. The land shows mountains and rivers, named as profusely as space allows, and the small crowns denote kingdoms. The oceans are stippled and decorated with four sailing ships and three sea monsters. The globe is joined along the plane of the elliptic and holes at the North and South Poles originally held support pins. Several small texts are found, in particular in the Southern Continent below India, *Terra nove plane cognita Inventa Ao 1499* and by the Moluccas, *Insula nove inventa*. The globe also names all the continents, the equator, the tropics, the oceans and some islands.

Modeled on the work of Johannes Oterschaden, this rare and beautifully engraved miniature silver globe was probably made to form a part of a globe clock or

elaborate armillary sphere. Elements of Oterschaden's geography almost certainly derive from Francois Demongenet's terrestrial globe of 1560 (#387). It is likely that the globe makers met while working in southern France, Oterschaden for the Bishop of Comminges and Demongenet at Vejoul in Franche Comte. In addition, it seems likely that Oterschaden was also in contact with the German globe maker Christoff Schniepp and Willem Nicolai at Leiden because their globes seem to share the same source of geography.



