



*Universalis Orbis Descriptio... Cogimur E Tabula Pictos Ediscere Mundos* [from: *Opusculum Geographicum Rarum...*]

**Cartographer:** Johannes Myritius

**Date:** 1590.

**Size:** 10.5" x 15.5" [including decorative border]/110 x 140 cm

**Location:** John Carter Brown Library at Brown University

**Description:** Myritius has been described as perhaps the last of the geographers to accept without question the connection of North America with Asia. The connection of Asia and America is most prevalent on earlier Italian Gastaldi-type world maps (#376), and R.W. Shirley notes that the choice of place names on the Myritius also points to reliance on an Italian rather than a Dutch source.

Also of significance, in the extreme south on the map, we now see something new -- an imaginary continent stretching across the pole. Mercator believed a continent would be found there and his theory was blindly accepted and duplicated on maps for over 100 years. Published in Ingolstadt Germany in 1590, this handsome oval map is surrounded by sixteen cherubic windheads inside of a heavy decorative outer border.

#### References:

Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of The World*, #175, plate 142.

*Portraits of The World*, #7, pp. 10-11.