



Hemisphaeriu ab Aequinoctiali Linea, ad Circulu Poli Arctici /
Hemisphaeriu ab Aequinoctiali Linea, ad Circulu Poli Antarctic

Cornelis de Jode's map is one of only a few 16th century maps of the world drawn on a twin polar hemisphere projection. The *Hemisphaerium* appeared only in the second and final edition of Gerard and Cornelis de Jode's *Speculum Orbis Terrarum*, published in 1593, following the elder De Jode's death. The 1593 edition included maps replacing many in the earlier edition that had been executed by other cartographers. These new maps attempted to keep the *Speculum* up-to-date with the rapid advances in geographic knowledge occurring in late 16th century. Richly annotated with contemporary geographical knowledge (accurate and myth), much of the geography is largely based on the Italian maps of the *Lafreri School*. It is thought that de Jode acquired these source maps from agents of Venetian and Roman mapmakers at one of the annual gatherings of the Frankfurt Book Fair.

While de Jode's *Lafreri* sources were groundbreaking, as (in sum) the first maps to, in detail, show all of the world as it was then conceived by Europeans, the present map naturally shows both the amazing breadth and limitations of contemporary knowledge. While the *Lafreri* mapmakers were able to gain access to a number of, often 'pirated', original source maps, the policies of 'cartographic secrecy' employed the Portuguese and Spanish governments, the prime movers of exploration during the 16th century, placed a limitation on available sources. That factor, and the reality that much of the world had not yet been explored by Europeans, let alone charted, were responsible for enduring cartographic misconceptions.

It is worth noting that the fascinating twin polar hemisphere projection had the effect of excessively attenuating the landforms located near the equator, or near the margins of the hemispheres. As seen on the left, 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. 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.

While the Malay Peninsula is easily identifiable, and notes the Portuguese trading base of Malacca (secured in 1511), Sumatra is incorrectly identified as *Taprobana*, the archaic name for Sri Lanka. The Indian subcontinent takes on an unfamiliar, bulbous form, although Sri Lanka correctly appears off of its southeastern tip. The delineation of the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula and Africa are quite fine for the time, emanating from Portuguese sources.

In the Americas, California is named, and the mythical cities of *Quivira* and *Civola* are also labeled. The mapping of Eastern Canada and the American Atlantic Seaboard is quite rudimentary. Newfoundland is shown, although Labrador is depicted as an island. The St. Lawrence River is shown to be of an exaggerated breadth, although *Stadcona* [Quebec City] and *Hochelaga* [Montreal], Algonquin towns discovered by Jacques Cartier, from 1534 to 1541, are noted. Further south towards Florida, the coasts are bereft of accurate detail, as the map predates John Smith's mapping of Chesapeake Bay and New England.

Turning to the southern hemisphere (on the right), a massive *Terra Australis Incognita* dominates the projection. The Straits of Magellan separate this apocryphal continent from South America, a misconception that would remain in place until Le Maire rounded Cape Horn in 1615. South America is shown on a very wide projection, retaining the bulge made famous in the first edition of Ortelius' map of America. In the eastern seas, *Terra Australis* is shown to extend upwards into the eastern reaches of the Indonesian Archipelago.

De Jode's map is one of the great icons of map collecting. The map is based upon the now lost first edition of Guillaume Postel's wall map of the world (1581) and a unique set of globe gores measuring 2.4 meters x 1.2 meters from circa 1587 known in one copy in the Bibliotheque Nationale de France, attributed by Marcel Destombes to engravers Antoine Wierix and Adrian Collard, who likely made the map for Cornelis De Jode (referred to by Destombes as the *Antwerp Unicum*).

As noted by Rodney Shirley:

The map is an interesting adaptation of Guillaume Postel's 1581 world map with some curious features reminiscent of the large anonymous gores probably published in Antwerp in about 1587. In both maps we have the same configuration for the northern coasts - the Gulf of Merosro in North America, the placing of Ter. d Labrador and Nova Zembla, and the odd junction of the eastern part of Asia with one of the large arctic masses. Japan is to be found only a few degrees from the west coast of America, and in the delineation of South Africa and South America there are further features strongly suggesting a common source.

One of two world maps in the 1593 edition of the *Speculum Orbis Terrarum*, de Jode's twin polar view owes much to the world map of French Arabist scholar Guillaume Postel. Postel, like Mercator, allowed the possibility of a great south land, though he saw the *Antipodes* as part of a greater rethinking of the world along Biblical lines. Accordingly, he gave the continents names after the sons of Noah associated with them: Europe became '*Iapetia*' (after Japhet), Asia '*Semia*' (after Shem) and Africa '*Chamia*' or

'Chamesia' (after Cham). Postel believed the south land should be called 'Chasdia', after the son of Cham (Africa), as he had heard it was populated by dark people. According to Postel's account, "For in that part of the coastline that has been discovered, men were seen of great blackness." De Jode's double hemisphere map follows Postel in calling the south land *Chasdia* and the mapping and other annotations are clearly derived from it. Most prominent in capital letters, however, are letters 'Ter. Australis incognita', thereby giving *Chasdia* secondary importance. Large and small islands labeled 'lava maior' and 'lava minor' also appear on the map making it clear that neither is associated with the south land. Polar views were popularized by Dutch mapmakers half a century later.

The questions over what informed these maps goes to the heart of debates about sixteenth-century European charting of the south Pacific. Were these maps purely speculative, or were they based on sources that no longer survive? And who drew and engraved them, if not Cornelis?

Latin text on the verso, from the 1593 edition of de Jode's *Speculum Orbis Terrarum*. Geographically, the map itself is as striking and unusual as it is in its layout and design. A possible reason for this is that De Jode sought to differentiate his maps from those of Abraham Ortelius. So instead of using the much more common prototype derived from Mercator's 1569 wall map of the world (#406), De Jode, as R.W. Shirley points out, relied primarily on the more recent 1581 map by Postel and a set of anonymous gores dating from 1587, resulting in several unusual delineations. The northeast coast of North America is highly distorted, featuring a unique, large bay in the general area of present-day New York. There is an embryonic Great Lakes system, and a large, fictional lake in the northern interior of Canada. East Asia is shown connected to one of the four mythical landmasses of the Arctic, and Japan is but a few degrees from North America. The Southern Hemisphere is dominated by a vast *Terra Australis Incognita*, which includes both Tierra del Fuego and New Guinea.

The De Jodes had the misfortune of attempting to enter the atlas market at the same time as the highly successful Abraham Ortelius, whose *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* would be issued in 39 editions. In spite of the quality of the De Jode atlas - many of the De Jode maps are thought to be superior to Ortelius' - commercially, it was no match. The lack of success and hence the scarcity of the De Jode atlas are often attributed to his rival's superior political and business connections; Ortelius was able to enjoy a license and monopoly for his atlas, whereas De Jode's efforts to secure a license were fruitless for many years. There are indications that Ortelius actively maneuvered to have De Jode's application for ecclesiastical and royal imprimaturs delayed until his own expired. At any rate, the first copies of the *Speculum* were not sold until 1579, nine years after Ortelius' work was first published. Also, judging from their name, the De Jodes were apparently Jewish; how this might have affected the fate of their publications has not been explored by commentators.

It was not until 1593 that the second and final edition appeared under the aegis of the son, Cornelis, featuring its new maps. After Cornelis' death in 1600, the plates for the *Speculum* were purchased by Jan Baptist Vrients, who was then publishing Ortelius' atlas, but there were no later printings of De Jode's maps. Perhaps Vrients' purchase was intended to remove the competition.

Size: 13 x 22 inches/32 x 52 cm

References:

*Helman, S., "Rethinking the Southern Continent", *Mapping Our World Terra Incognita to Australia*, pp. 92-93.

*Nordenskiöld, A.E., *Facsimile Atlas*, p. 95, Plate XLVIII.

*Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of the World*, 184.

Skelton, R.A., 'De Jode Speculum Orbis Terrarum' (Introduction) pp. v-x.

*Wolff, H., *America, Early Maps of the New World*, p. 83, #101.

*illustrated







Asia, Partium Orbis Maxima
Cornelis de Jode, 1593, 32 x 52 cm



Brasilia et Peruvia
Cornelis de Jode, 1593, 32 x 52 cm

An example of De Jode's second map of South America, based largely upon Petrus Plancius' wall map of the world, published in 1592. This map was one of ten new plates engraved for Cornelis De Jode's 1593 publication of the *"Speculum Orbis Terrae"*, a revised and augmented version of his father's 1578 publication De Jode's map of South America is one of the earliest maps to show the continent of South America alone and the earliest Dutch map of South America. The map provides a fine detailed treatment of the known and explored regions of South America, which had been heavily mapped and explored by the Spanish and Portuguese by the late 16th century. The map is among the very few maps which reference the Straits of Magellan with its earlier name, *Estrecho de la Victoria*, the name used by Pigafetta in his description of Magellan's voyage, named for Magellan's flagship, which is illustrated to the west of the Strait. The map also includes detailed information and annotations on the unknown "Southern Continent". The information includes a number of place names and annotations. In the interior parts of South America, the larger river systems are shown, along with annotations describing the regions, flora and fauna. The map reached to Central America and the Caribbean, embellished with ships and sea monsters around the continent. De Jode's map includes a finely detailed treatment of the coastal regions of the continent, along with a number of fanciful features in the interior, including decorative vignettes, natives, and animals.



Africae vera forma et situs
Cornelis de Jode, 1593, 32 x 52 cm

This exceedingly rare map is an interesting amalgamation of cartographical sources. Cornelis prepared this map for the second edition of the *Speculum* after his father's death in 1591. It replaced the African map of the first edition that had been attributed to Gastaldi. This map retains the continental outline from Gastaldi with the interior based primarily on Mercator's world map of 1569. This is most evident in the river systems, including *Sachaflac* as the source of the *Zabere* (Zembere), *Cuama* and *R. d S. Spirito* rivers in southern Africa. The map also incorporates information from Ortelius including the placement of Zanzibar on the southwest coast. The map is beautifully adorned with ships and sea monsters and representations of the native people scattered across the map. Unfortunately Cornelis' atlas met the same fate as that of his father's atlas, with very few copies being sold. On the death of Cornelis, the copper plates were sold to Jan Baptist Vrients, the publisher of Ortelius' atlas, who acquired them merely to stop their re-issue. As a result the map is very rare. Latin text on verso.

