



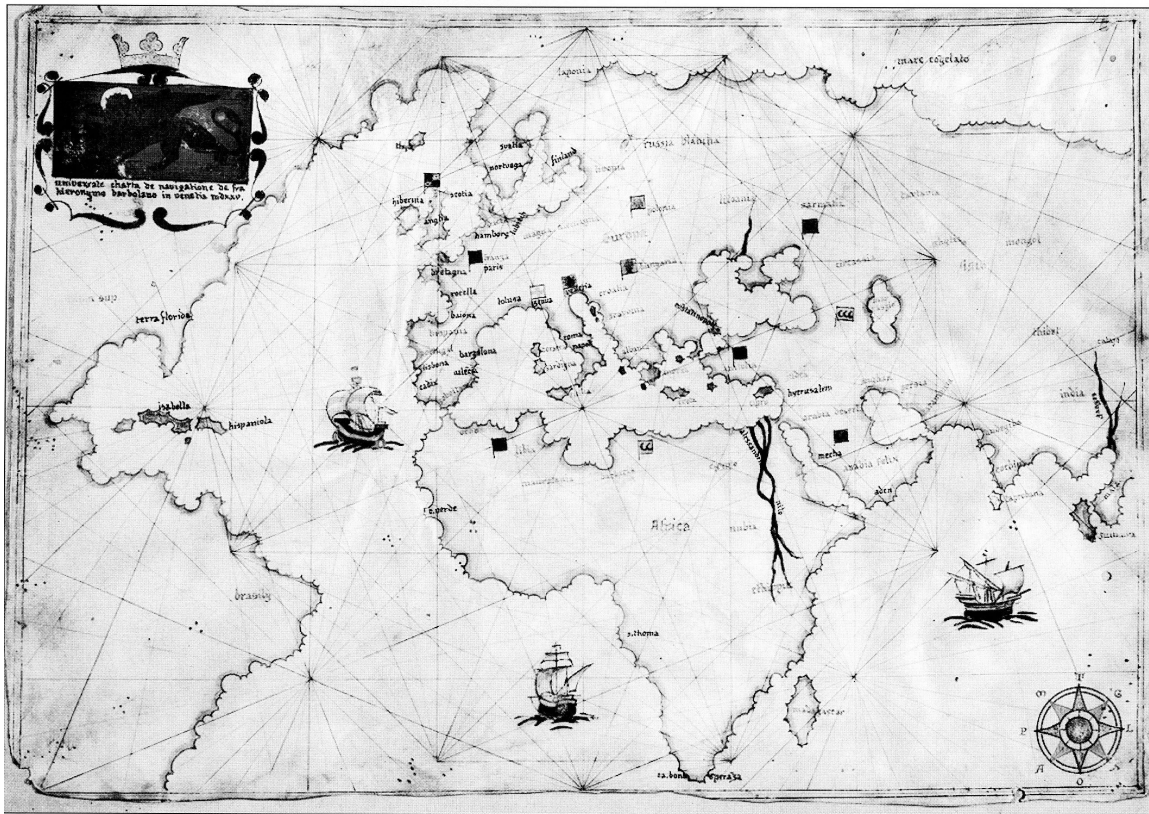
Figure 1: Dolfin Bonaldo's world map [Map 5 in the listing]. If this map is authentic it is the earliest to show the Isthmus of Panama with a definite Pacific coastline and the first to name Florida. It is held in the Edward E. Ayer Collection (MS Map 9) at The Newberry Library, Chicago.

The following is excerpted from an article in the *The Map Collector*, "Could these Italian maps be fakes?" 67 (1994): 2-10, by the late cartographic historian David Woodward. In the Edward E. Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library in Chicago are four small manuscript maps of the world on vellum. The authenticity of these maps [Maps 1, 5, 8, and 12 in the list at the end of this monograph] and a number of other world maps of similar style and date has been under some scrutiny for many years. The appearance of two other similar maps on the antiquarian map market in recent years prompted the writing of this article by David Woodward so that the attention of dealers, collectors, scholars, and curators, may be drawn to them. The article lists the maps believed to belong to this corpus and summarizes what is known about them.

In 1941 Father Josef Fischer published an article in which he discussed a map dated 1519 by a certain "Dolfin Bonaldus" [Figure 3, Map 10] that was exhibited for many years (together with other early maps) at the Stella Matutina Museum in Feldkirch (Vorarlberg, Austria). On moving from Feldkirch to Munich in 1939, Fischer wrote letters to several well-known scholars asking if anything was known about the map or the said "Bonaldus." The replies to the first question were unanimously negative, but three scholars (Frederik Caspar Wieder, Heinrich Winter, and Roberto Almagia) replied that they knew of another chart by him in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library, Chicago [Map 5]. There has been some debate whether the date on this map can be read as MOXLI or MOXII, but Leonardo Loredan, who is mentioned on the map, was named doge of Venice on July 2, 1502, and died in 1521, so it is more likely to be 1512 (Figure 1). If authentic, this map would thus be the earliest to show the Isthmus of Panama with a definite Pacific coastline (one year before Balboa saw the coast) and the first map to name Florida. The question of authenticity thus has some importance in the case of this map.

Wieder and Almagia both believed that this map - and the other three maps associated with it in the Newberry Library, were fabrications. Wieder drew attention to yet another map in

Fischer agreed with Bagrow as he had already drawn attention, in a small newspaper article twenty years previously, to a similar facsimile map [Map 4] by Hieronimo Marin which belonged to the Library of the Foreign Ministry of Brazil. However, Fischer now stated in the article, that he would not allocate the date of 1512 to the “Marin” map as unhesitatingly as he had done then.



In Fischer's view none of the maps were "absolutely impossible representations," but the appearance at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries of so many hitherto unknown maps dating between 1509 and 1525, all by unknown cartographers with similar lettering styles, decorative motifs, and geographical configurations, was suspicious. The strange land connection of Norway and Sweden with Brazil was particularly striking to him. Fischer concluded that "my numerous comparisons confirm my view that the correspondence and the differences could be explained much easier and in a more satisfying way if a later factory-type production is assumed." However, he added that he had not seen the originals and so was unwilling to make a final judgment on the authenticity of these maps.

However, one of the maps, the Bonaldo map of 1519, belonged to *Figure 2 Universale charta de navigatione*, purported to be by Hieronymo Barbolano. This map [Map 12 in the listing] is also in the Edward E. Ayer Collection (MS Map 7) of the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Roberto Almagia summarized the article by Fischer,¹ but added another map that had been exhibited at the 6th Italian Geographical Congress, Venice, in 1907 [Map 2]. This, according to Almagia, was similar to the map by Hieronimo Marin reproduced by Danesi [Map 4]. But Almagia also pointed out the coincidence that a printer named Zuan Piero de Marin was granted a privilege on May 10, 1529, to print *uno mappamundo cum tutte le isole, loci, et navigatione da nova trovate*, [a world map with all the newly-found islands, locations, and travel routes]. Almagia seemed justified to conclude that all these world maps were produced in very recent times. He also pointed out that one could not exclude the possibility of other similar maps in circulation, requiring the utmost caution.

The map by Hieronimo Marin [Map 4], now in the Library of the Foreign Ministry of Brazil, was published in a facsimile to which Fischer referred around 1921. A copy of this facsimile had also been donated to the American Geographical Society of New York in 1941 by the Commissioner General, Brazil Pavilion, New York World's Fair. This facsimile was exhibited recently at the Turman Art Gallery, Indiana State University, with a circumspect question mark after the 1512 date in the catalogue to the exhibit.

Map 7, said to be by Fra Michiel Barbolan, was mentioned in an article in the *Geographical Journal* in 1908 (*Figure 4*). This was acquired in 1907 from the Libreria Hoepli, Milan, by a Mr. H. Ruffer, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London, who shared the expense of its reproduction in the journal. Its whereabouts today are not known but its content is similar to that of a genuine chart described by Jean Denuce in an Austrian journal, also in 1908.

Another map of the group [Map 10] appeared in a catalogue of the antique map dealer, Damms Antikvariat, Norway, in 1977. It is not known who, if anyone, bought this map. Woodward wrote to the dealer in 1977 expressing doubts about the map's authenticity. The dealer sent me the map to examine. It confirmed my opinion that the startling similarity of the lettering with the Bonaldo map in the Ayer Collection [Map 5] indicated that it possibly belonged to this group of fakes.

Five other maps, of which four are bound together in a small manuscript *portolan* atlas, are in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California [Maps 9 and 11] (*Figures 5, 6, 7 & 8*). These were bought in 1925 by Henry Huntington, founder of the Library, from Weymer Mills of 2, Cheyne Row, Chelsea, London, who stated that both had "been in the possession of an English family for 500 years." Referring to the small *portolan* atlas with four maps, he mentioned that "The authorities at the British Museum who saw the map said that they had nothing so fine and early and that a map of the period sold for £3,000 during the war."

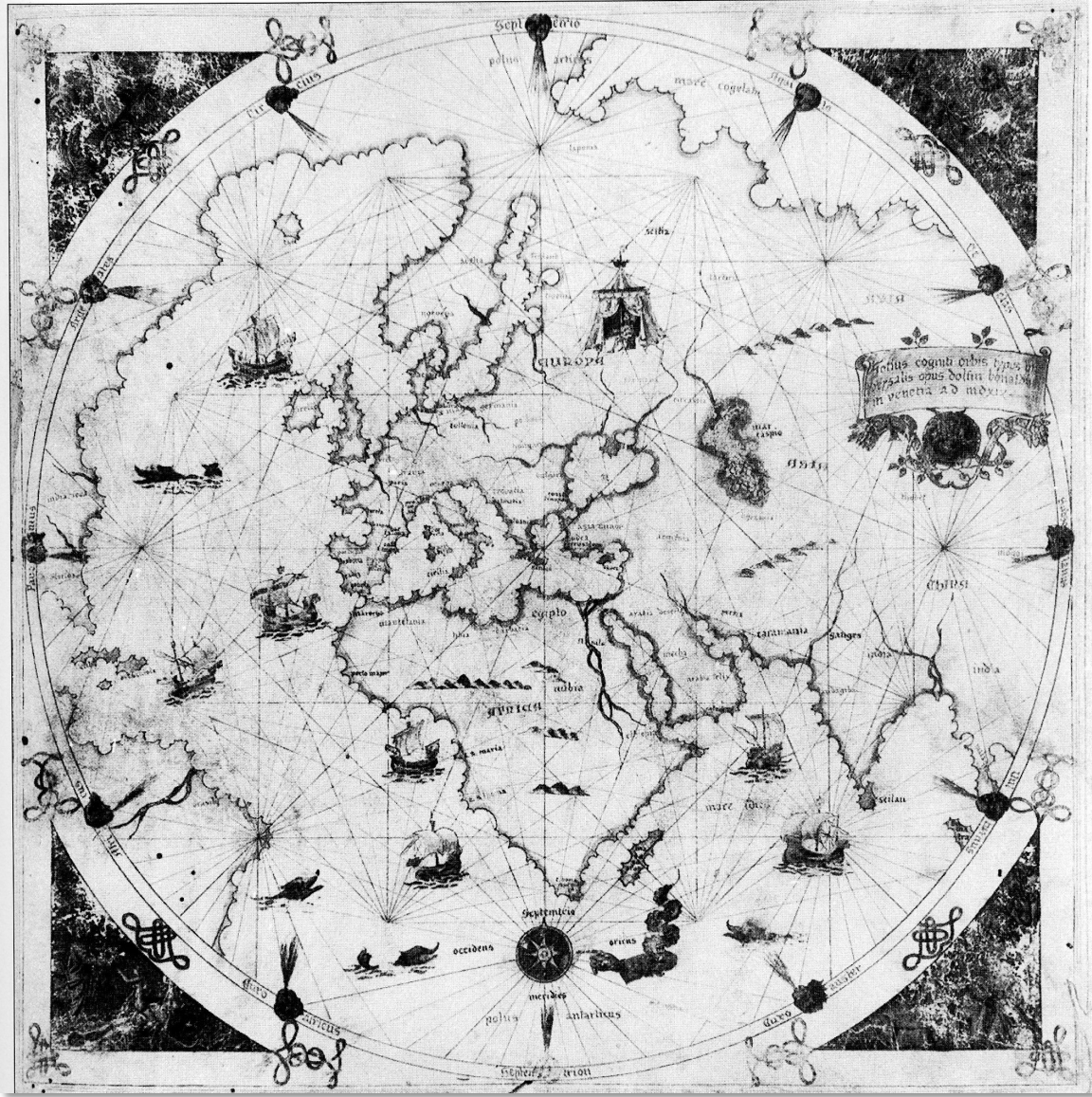


Figure 3: A circular world map. "Totius cogniti orbis typus", said to be by Dolfin Bonaldo and dated 1519 [Map 10 in the listing]. This map appeared in an auction catalogue of 1984 but its location is currently unknown. (Reproduction by courtesy of Christies, London)

We thus have a number of cartographers producing world maps of similar style between 1509 and 1525 about whom nothing else is known. These are Fra Bona Harigonio (Arigonio), Fra Michiel Barbolan, Fra Hieronymo Barbolano, Dolfin Bonaldo, Baldo Brunacius, Fra Matheo de Chiara de Arimino, Matheo da Gaio, Hieronimo Marin, and Gabriel Polani. Harigonio, Michiel and Hieronymo Barbolan, Bonaldo, de Chiara de Arimino, da Gaio, Marin, and Polani, are all associated with Venice. Two of the maps are dedicated to Leonardo Loredan by different authors. However, Almagia points out that the Barbolan family was almost extinct before the beginning of the 16th century. Baldo Brunacius is unusual among the group in signing himself as "Pisano." Indeed, the Brunacius map is also one that stands out stylistically as being different from the others (Figure 9). Although the geographical configurations are similar to the other three Ayer collection maps, the lettering is all in small italic capitals and quite unlike the minuscules of the other three, all of which appear to be from the same hand. The comparison of the Ayer

manuscript maps [Maps 5 and 12] is perhaps the most instructive (*Figures 1 & 2*). Here are two maps similar in geography and style yet signed by two different and otherwise unknown authors.

There is a remote possibility that Map 1 from the Ayer collection by Fra Bona Harigonio is genuine and that it formed a model for some of the other world maps made by clerics in Venice, supposedly in the early 16th century (*Figure 10*). The burnished gilding and illumination seem more characteristic for the time and place than the other maps in the group. Certainly, without physical analysis, there is no other evidence in the map that would question its authenticity. If this was the case, it would tend to corroborate Bagrow's opinion that the other map by Harigonio [Map 3] was also genuine as it had been photographed by the end of the nineteenth century before the suspected appearance of many of the other maps.

However, the general conclusion is that all these maps were made at the end of the nineteenth century or the beginning of the twentieth possibly for modest gain, probably more out of curiosity in the outcome. At the very least, all the maps listed here and others of similar type and style must be carefully scrutinized before being used as scholarly evidence or being purchased on the antiquarian map market. Chemical analysis of the pigments might reveal industrial compounds not available before the nineteenth century. It is to be hoped that this article will stimulate others who can either add to the list or provide further information that could be helpful.

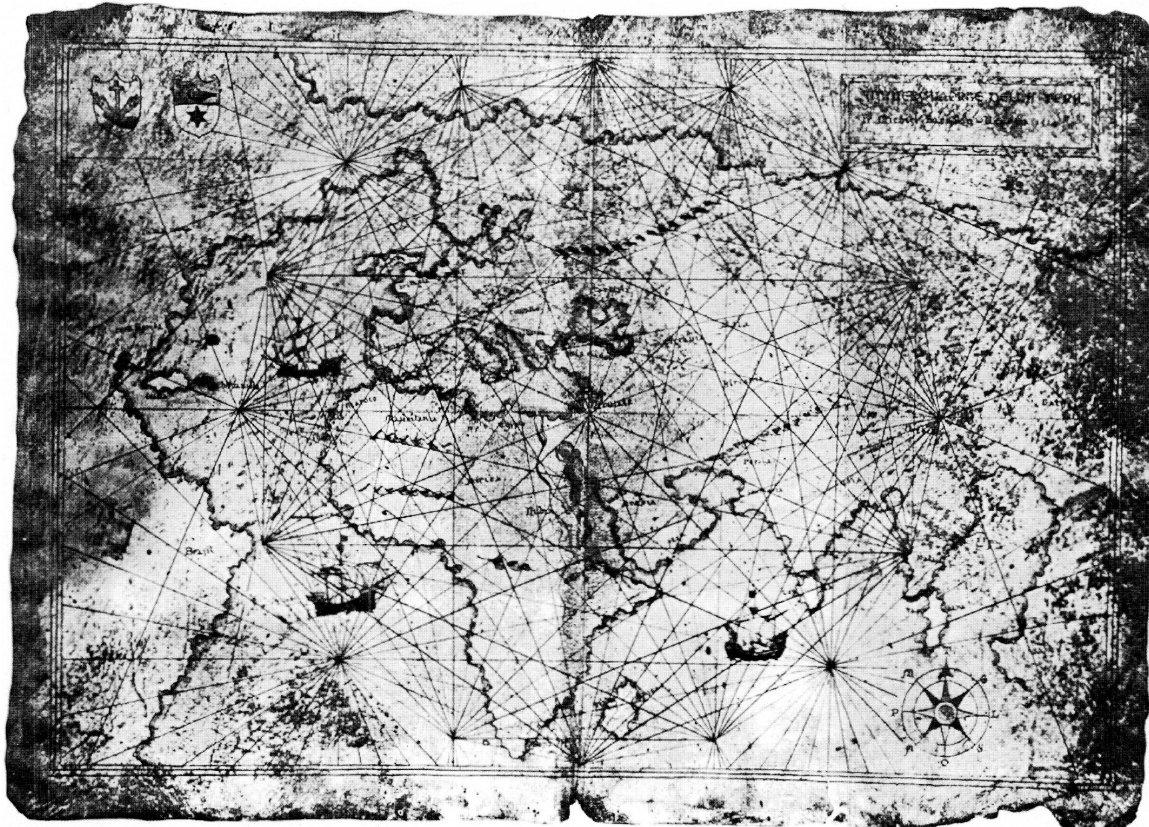


Figure 4: This map of the world [Map 7 in the listing] appeared in a copy of the Geographical Journal in 1908. Its location is now unknown. It is titled "Universal orbe della tera" and claims to be by Fr. M. Barbolan, Venice, 1514.

List of Maps (in chronological order):

[Map 1] 1509, Fra Bona Harigonio, *figura totius orbe thexora [=terra?] uni [illumination of St. Mark] uersale de Fra bona harigonio in venetia ano nativitate do [illumination of St. Mark] mine mccccix de luio*. Newberry Library, Edward Ayer Collection MS Map 5. 340 x 230mm. Figure 10.

[Map 2] 1510. Another map was exhibited at the 6th Italian Geographical Congress in Venice (1907), *Universalis tabula figura mundi-Venetia MDX* (270 x 190mm), later recognized as a fake in a letter to R. Alrnagia from the Director of the Biblioteca Marciana. According to Almagia this showed notable similarities to the Brasil map by "Hieronirno Marin." [Map 4] Location now unknown.

[Map 3] 1511, Fra Bona Harigonio, *Nova carta marina fo facta da mi fra Bona Arigonio venexia mccccxi* (Prof. Erland Nordenskiöld Collection). Location now unknown.

[Map 4] 1512, Hieronomi Marin, *orbis tipus universalis tabula [shield] hieronimi mari[n] fecit venetia mdxii*. 380 x 302mm. Library of the Foreign Ministry of Brazil. Facsimile published by Danesi in Rome sometime before 1921. In AGS Collection, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, USA. Exhibited at the Brazilian pavilion at the New York World's Fair in 1940/41. Figure 4.

[Map 5] 1512, Dolfin Bonaldo, *Universale tabula del mo[n]do per la necessita de navigatione a la india nova fo facta da mi dolfin bonaldo in venexia mdxii dogan]do s lunardo lorede[n] de luio*. In Edward E. Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago. MS Map 9. 334 x 232mm. Figure 1. The earliest of these suspect maps is dated 1509 and attributed to Fra Bona Harigonio [Map 1 in our listing] (By courtesy of The Newberry Library)

[Map 6] 1513, Gabriel Polani, *Figura mundi nova descriptio Gabriel Polani*. Venetiae MdXIII. Cote de Lyon Collection, ? Location unknown.

[Map 7] 1514. Fra Michiel Barbolan, *Universal Orbe della Tera*. *Geographical Journal*, 1908, and Almagia. Location now unknown.

[Map 8] 1516, Baldo Brunacius, [in central circle] *Mapa Mvndi Baldo Brunacio[m] Pisano [in left circle] M.F. A.D. MDXVI* in the Edward E. Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago. MS Map 6. 328 x 225mm. Figure 9.

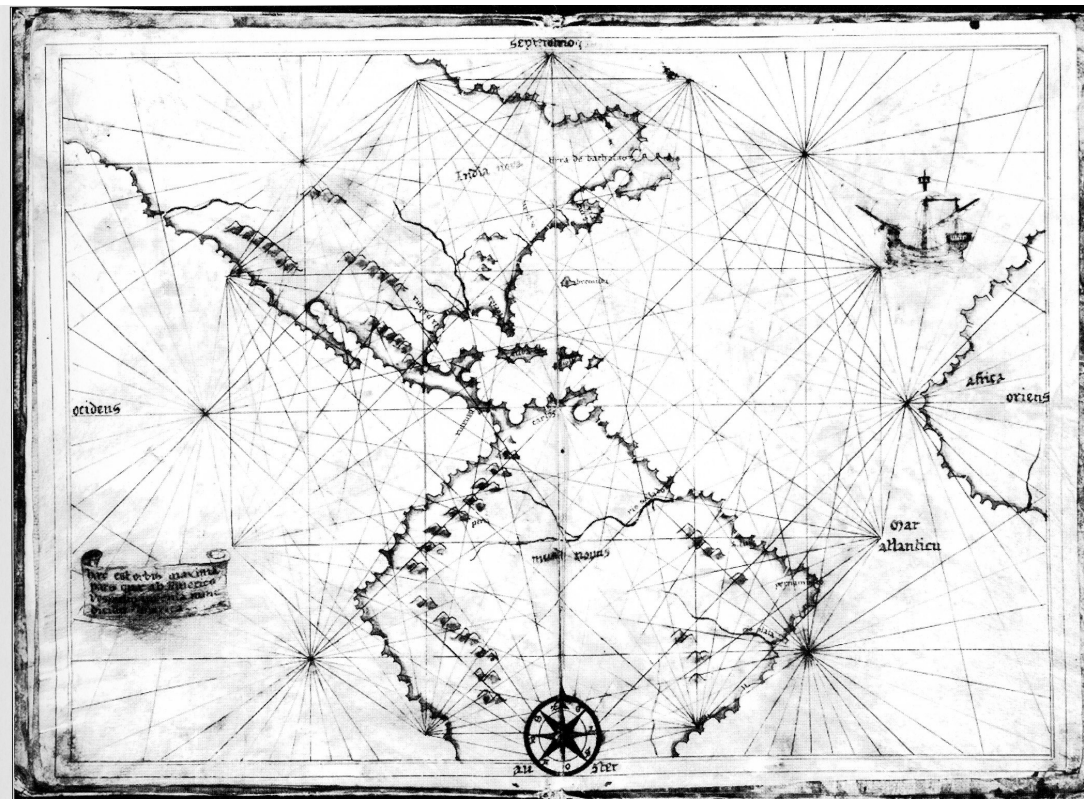
[Map 9] 1516, Matheo da Gaio, [Oval map of the world, including eastern coast of North and South America] with inscription: *Mathei Da Gaio in Venetia MDXVI* dedicated to Doge Leonardo Loredano, in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. HM 218. 371 x 483mm. Figures 7&8.

[Map 10] 1519, Dolfin Bonaldo, *Totius cogniti orbis typus universalis opus dolfin bonaldus in venetia a.d. mclxix*. 475 x 475mm. Figures 3 and 11.

[Map 11] 1519, Matheo de Chiara, [Atlas of four nautical charts: Europe and the Mediterranean; Asia from Eastern Mediterranean to China; Africa and Arabia; and North and South America]. Inscription: *me fecit fra Matheo de Chiara de arimino anno domine mdxix*, in the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. HM 217. Map sizes 229 x 307mm. Figures 5&6.

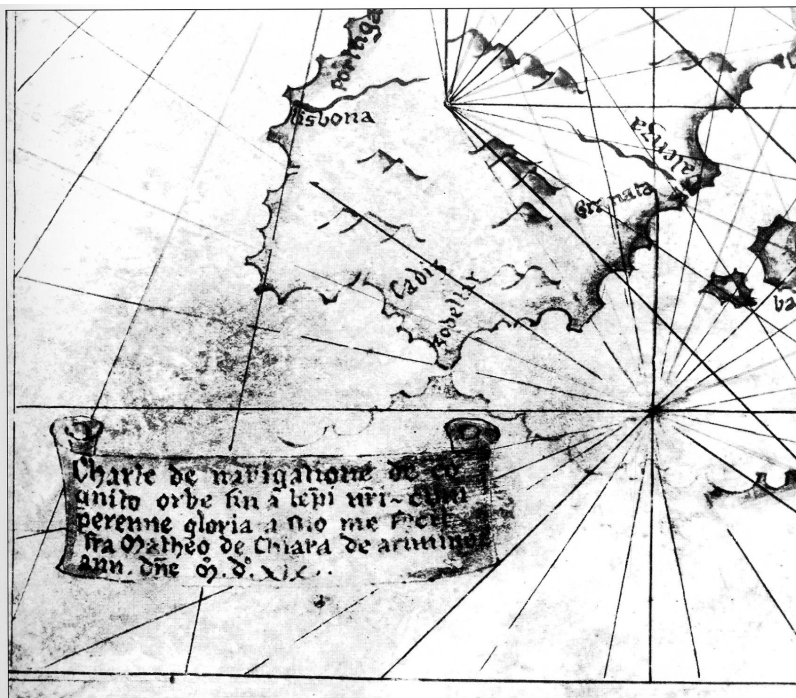
[Map 12] 1525, Fra Hieronymo Barbolano, *universale charta de navigatione de fra hieronymo barbolano in venetia mclxxv*, in the Edward E. Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago. MS Map 7. 333 x 230mm. Figure 2.

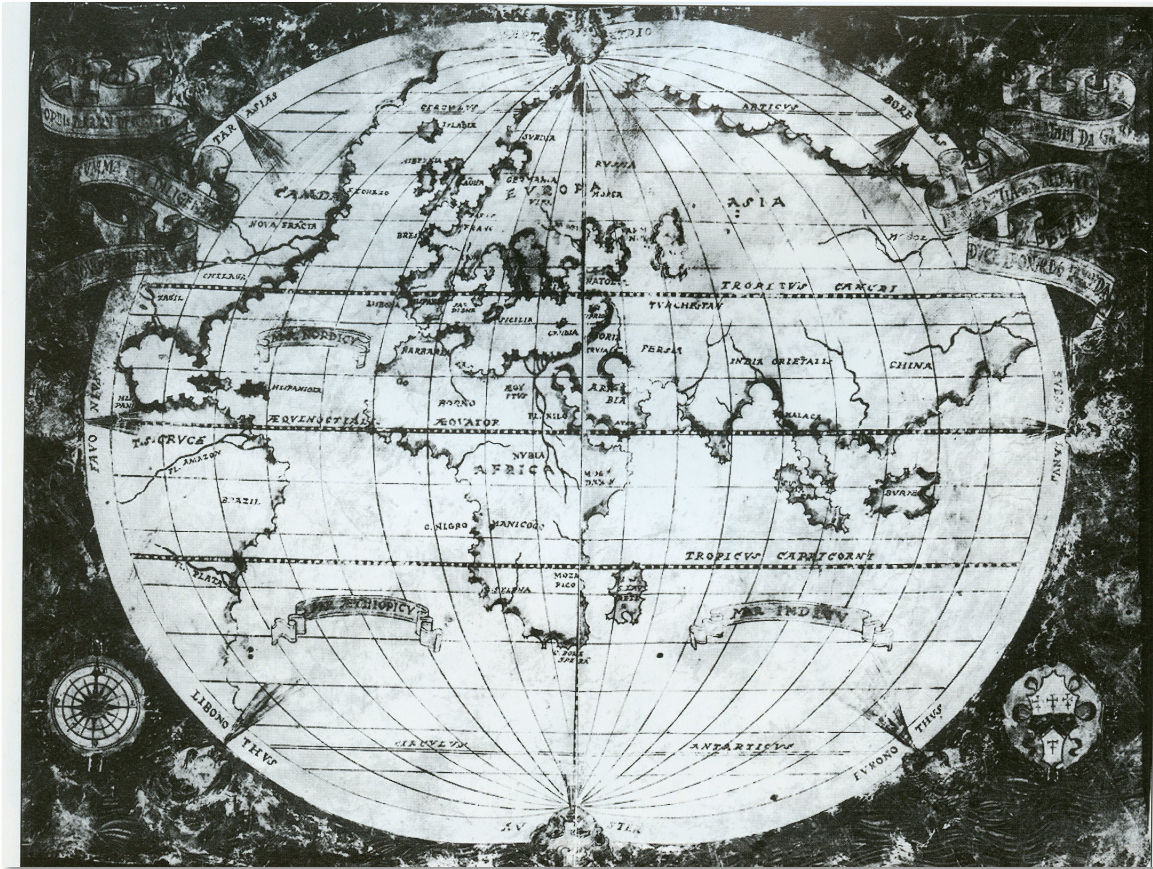
[Map 13] [Date erased], "Maris et terrae hoc est charta marinae; Nova descriptio justa recentium observationibus. Augustinus marinalis (?) venetiae [erased] a.d. m[erased]. Location now unknown.



Figures 5 and 6

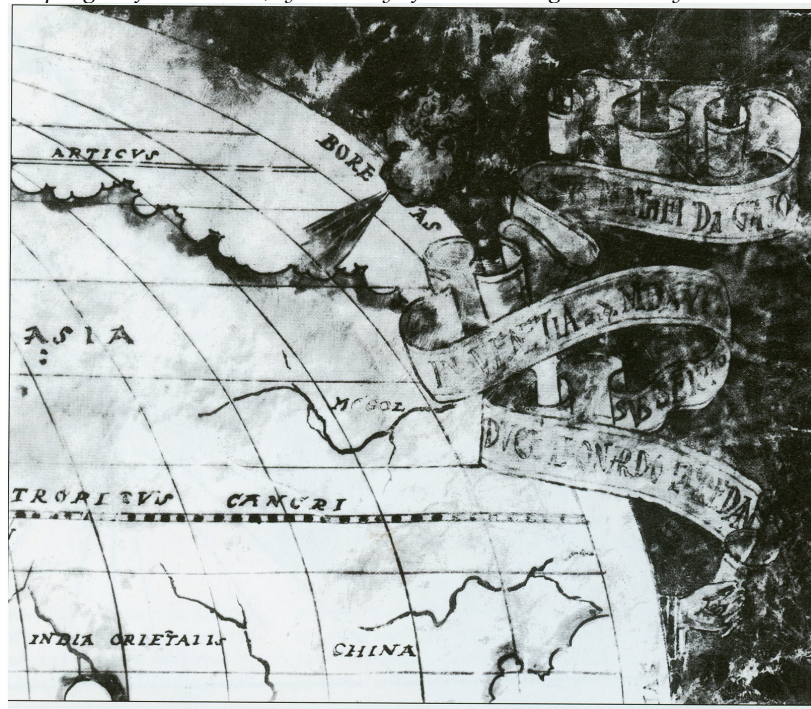
A map of the Americas from a portolan atlas by Matheo de Chiara [Map 11 in our listing]. The atlas contains four charts including one of Europe and the Mediterranean (see enlarged detail of the cartouche) [Map 9 in our listing]. These were bought by an American collector and were said to have "been in the possession of an English family for 500 years."





Figures 7 and 8

An oval map of the world by Mathea da Gaia [Map 9 in the listing] with a detail of the inscription at top right of the chart. (By courtesy of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California)



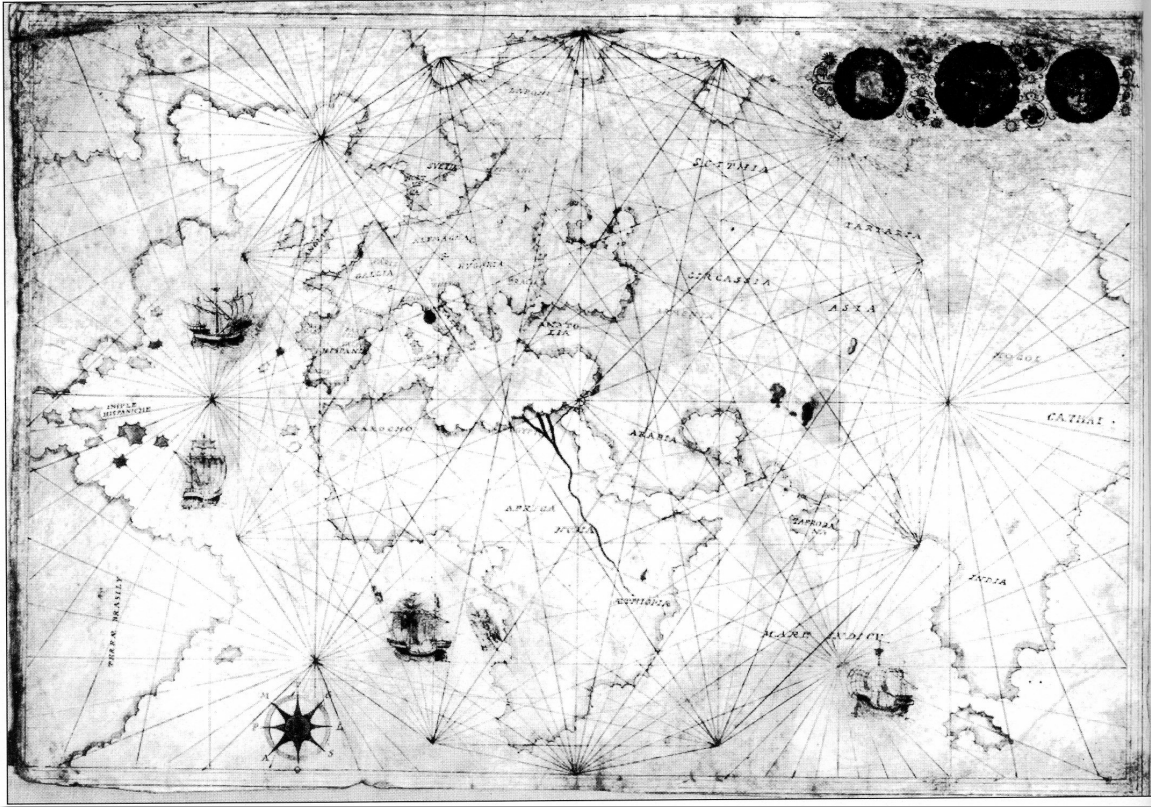


Figure 9: This world map by Baldo Brunacius is dated 1516 [Map 8 in the listing]. It stands out stylistically as being different from the other maps in the Edward E. Ayer Collection at The Newberry Library, Chicago. (By courtesy of the Newberry Library)



Figure 10: The earliest of these suspect maps is dated 1509 and attributed to Fra Bona Harigonio [Map 1 in the listing] The Newberry Library



Figure 11: A circular world map. "Totius cogniti orbis typus", said to be by Dolfin Bonaldo and dated 1519 [Map 10 in the listing]. This map appeared in an auction catalogue of 1984 but its location is currently unknown. (Reproduction by courtesy of Christies. London)