

**Description:** Nice example of Vincenzo Maria Coronelli's cornerstone map of North

America, one of the most influential maps of North America published in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Coronelli's map of North America, appeared in his *Atlante Veneto*. The map is cartographically similar to his famous globe of 1688 and richly embellished with a style unique to Coronelli's maps. The title cartouche features scenes of gods blessing this era of European expansion. Vignettes of native Americans and various creatures appear throughout the map. Cartographically, Coronelli's depiction of the Great Lakes is the most advanced to date, drawing on information from the explorations of Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette. The Mississippi River basin reflects the French discoveries of René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle on his first expedition of 1679-82. This map depicts La Salle's misplacement of the mouth of the Mississippi, which he located some 600 miles to the west of its true location.

In the West, Coronelli's map contributes a significant amount of new information, drawn mostly from the manuscript map drawn by Diego Dionisio de Peñalosa Briceño y Berdugo, which included numerous previously unrecorded place names and divided the Rio Grande River into the Rio Norte and the Rio Bravo in the south. The manuscript map was prepared by Peñalosa between 1671 and 1687, as part of his attempts to interest the French King Louis XIV in a military expedition against New Spain. The most prominent geographical detail of the map is California's appearance as a massive island, this map being one of the best renderings of this beloved misconception.

Vincenzo Maria Coronelli, a Venetian scholar and Minorite Friar, was one of the most celebrated map and globe makers of his era. Coronelli produced more than one hundred terrestrial and celestial globes, several hundred maps, and a wealth of cartographic publications. In 1683, he completed the *Marly Globes* for Louis XIV, the largest and most magnificent globes ever made. In 1684 he founded the *Accademia Cosmografica degli Argonauti*, the first geographical society, and was appointed Cosmographer of the Republic of Venice.

#### References:

- Burden, *The Mapping of North America II*, 643;  
 Burden, *Mapping the West*, pp.43-47;  
 Cumming, *The Exploration of North America*, p.148;  
 Leighly, *California as an Island*, 88;  
 Martin & Martin, *Maps of Texas and the Southwest*, p.87;  
 McLaughlin, *California as an Island*  
 Tucker, Gene Rhea, "Coronelli's Texan Mississippi: A Reinterpretation of the America Settentrionale of 1688", *Terrae Incognitae*. 40: 82-101(2008).









Indians attacking an alligator in the areas of present-day Virginia, from Vincenzo Coronelli's 1690 map





*America Settentrionale Colle Nuove Scoperte Sin All Anno 1688*  
35 x 24 inches

A true landmark in the cartography of America. This map was the most advanced general map of North America of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and displays at its best Coronelli's distinctively robust engraving style. The cartouche, in particular, is one of Coronelli's finest. The map played a central role in one of the most interesting and still not fully understood cartographic regressions. It was one of the first maps, and certainly the most influential, to place the mouth of the Mississippi River far to the west of its actual location. It spawned a host of maps with this delineation that would appear well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Whether this distortion was intentional or not is still a matter of debate. In any case, the mouth of the Mississippi would be "lost" until 1699, when it was "re-discovered" by Bienville. It would be some time after that its actual location would be consistently seen on maps. It is somewhat surprising that an Italian would be the author of the best general map of North America of this period, since the French were the major explorers of the American interior at the time. The reason is that Coronelli, as a result of the magnificent globes he presented to Louis XIV, became a great favorite in that monarch's court. Therefore, he had access to the most recent information as reported by French explorers. As a result of his acquaintance with Marquette's (1673) and La Salle's (1682) journeys on the Mississippi and in the Great Lakes region, Coronelli's delineation of the Great Lakes is the most accurate on a general map before the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Several notes on the map describe the activities of important explorers. Cartographers of this period had little knowledge of the American west, but this map is an exception. It is one of the earliest maps to accurately delineate the course of the Rio Grande and to locate the Spanish settlements in New Mexico. It is believed that



















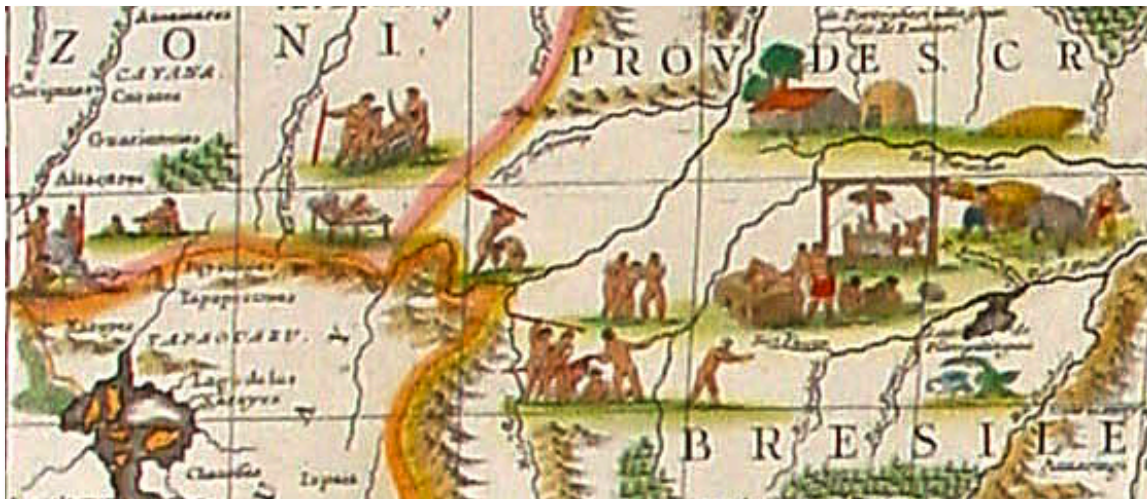


*Ships off the coast of Japan from Vincenzo Coronelli's 1688 globe*





*America Meridionale 1691, 58 x 86 cm*



*Indians in South America, from Vincenzo Coronelli's 1690 map, America Meridionale*

The *Atlante Veneto* (1690-1701) was a comprehensive atlas published by the Jesuit geographer Vincenzo Maria Coronelli and intended as a continuation of the Joan Blaeu *Atlas Maior*. This monumental work was published in thirteen folios and provided a wealth of detail covering ancient and modern cartographers and geographers, together with astronomical and historical data. These maps were engraved in a bold style and printed on fine white paper, the more important ones spread over two sheets, allowing for great detail. The first part comprises an introduction to geography with engravings



of globes, wind roses, and cosmographic systems through the ages from Ptolemy, Copernicus and Tycho Brahe to Descartes. The second part deals exclusively with the earth, starting with a map by Ptolemy, and two modern maps, each covering a hemisphere, followed by two double-page maps of Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, ending with maps of the North and South Pole. The third part deals with hydrography - the oceans, rivers, lakes and deltas. Here are to be found maps of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Bosphorus, Gulf of Venice and rivers such as the Niger River, Amazon River, Rhine, Danube, and Volga. The final part describes the ships that explored these waters.







*Coronelli's globe of 1696, 47 cm diameter*

This terrestrial globe is dedicated to King William III of England. Despite its small size, it carries a wealth of details and information. Shows the discoveries made in numerous voyages of exploration, such as that of Jacob Le Maire. Vincenzo Coronelli regarded this as his most accomplished production. Indeed, the globe is very up-to-date and consistent with reality. It testifies to the care with which Coronelli compiled the latest geographic discoveries. Paired with the celestial globe (Dep. SBAS, Firenze), this brightly colored specimen is one of the finest known to survive. There is a Dutch-type stand. The six legs – rather than the usual four – are elaborately twisted.





*Coronelli's globe of 1688, 108 cm diameter*

This terrestrial globe is dedicated by Vincenzo Coronelli to the Most Serene Republic of Venice and the Doge Francesco Morosini. The globe, made of papier-mâché, is very easy to handle despite its size. It is covered with 50 printed sheets containing an abundance of up-to-date historical information, such as a mention of the earthquake that destroyed Lima in 1688. There are pictures of animals and persons wearing local costumes. Paired with the celestial globe inv. 2364. Provenance: Medici collections; in 1775, added to the Lorraine collections, which were incorporated into the Museo di Fisica e Storia Naturale of Florence.





*Coronelli's globe of 1688, 108 cm diameter*

This terrestrial globe is dedicated by Vincenzo Coronelli to the Most Serene Republic of Venice and the Doge Francesco Morosini. The Dedicatory Epistle mentions



Cardinal d'Estrées and the two large globes made by Coronelli for Louis XIV. This specimen, made of papier-mâché, is very easy to handle despite its size. It is covered with 50 printed sheets containing a wealth of up-to-date historical information, such as a mention of the earthquake that destroyed Lima in 1688. There are pictures of animals and persons in local costume. The English-type stand carries sculpted lions, like the stand of celestial globe inv. 2366, with which it is paired. Provenance: Medici collections; in 1753, added to the collections of the Osservatorio Ximeniano. Displayed at the first History of Science Exhibition held in Florence in 1929.

The request for globes started as a private princely commission from a high demanding class, mostly concentrated in the northern and central Europe courts. The art of coated cards globes with terrestrial or celestial, handwritten and often finely decorated originated in Italy. Coronelli was among the initiators of this art. The most famous Coronelli's globes are divided into 2 groups: the first one includes the Globes manufactured for Parma's Duke and for Louis XIV, which are unique for top quality; the second one includes those built since 1688, as result of a well known experience. Indeed, the quality of globes made for Louis XIV created the request for other Coronelli's globes. Their reputation was so wide that provoked the request from the highest class and institution, desiring to adorn their libraries with these elements not only for scientific use but also as artistic element. By this intent the two globes that we admire today in the Salone Furietti of Angelo Mai Library arrived in Bergamo. The history of the two globes is closely tied to cultural events and policies that have affected the city of Bergamo in the last 500 years. In fact the two Coronelli globes came to Bergamo in 1692, when Angelo Finardi, a man of letters and Augustinian friar, was the librarian at the St. Augustine monastery. He charged a man to buy them in Venice just with the purpose of equipping the monastery library with the essential tools of culture. In 1797, the St. Augustine monastery was suppressed, both the globes met with the confiscations of Napoleonic laws and were on the way to be brought to Paris and gathered with the Versailles globes. Nevertheless, thanks to the noble Giovanni Battista Vertova who had hidden the two globes in his home in 1834 they were donated by his son Andrea to the Bergamo Library. Other globes are at the National Library of Austria and in the Globe Museum in Vienna, in the library of Stift Melk, as well as in Trier, Prague, Paris, London, Washington D.C.. Having been restored and completed, another 1688 terrestrial globe is displayed at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. The Ransom Center at The University of Texas in Austin has a pair of Coronelli globes, both the 1688 terrestrial and the celestial.

Cardinal César d'Estrées, friend and adviser to Louis XIV and ambassador to Rome, saw the Duke of Parma's globes and invited Coronelli to Paris in 1681 to construct a pair of globes for the Most Christian King. Coronelli moved to the French capital in 1681, where he lived for two years. Each globe was composed of spindles of bent timber about ten feet long and four inches broad at the equator. This wood was then coated with a layer of plaster about an inch thick and covered in a layer of strong unfinished fabric. This was then wrapped in a quarter-inch layer of two very fine fabrics that provided backing for the painted information of the globes. These globes, measuring 384 cm in diameter and weighing approximately 2 tons, are displayed in the Bibliothèque Nationale François Mitterrand in Paris. The globes depicted the latest information of French explorations in North America, particularly the expeditions of René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle.





1697, 8.5 cm diameter





1688, 110 cm diameter





*L'Africa divisa nelle sue Parti secondo le Piit moderne, relationi colle scoperte dell'origine e corso del Nilo ... [Africa divided into its several parts according to recent information with the discoveries of the source of the Nile.] Venice, Vincenzo Maria Coronelli, 1691.*

*2 sheets 59 x 44 cm each. Scale in Italian miles, French, Spanish, German and English leagues, sea leagues. Prime meridian through Ferro Island.*

*Dedicated to Eccellenza del signor Gran Contestabile Colonna.*

This double-sheet map of Africa first appeared in his atlas, the *Atlante Veneto*. Most maps of Africa produced in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries showed the sources of the River Nile originating in two massive lakes - Zaire and Zaflan - well south of the Equator, and themselves fed by streams from the *Mons Lunae* [Mountains of the Moon]. This formulation was inherited by European geographers from the ancient geographical authority, Claudius Ptolemy: hence the most enduring geographical feature of the African continent was derived from second century geographical knowledge. By far the most dramatic geographical change on Coronelli's map is the near excision of the lakes (only the southern portion of Lake Zaire is shown) and the eradication of the upper Nile, instead depicting Lake Tsana (Tana) in *Abyssinia* as the source of the great river. This represented a partial correction, Lake Tsana being the source of the Blue Nile. The White Nile (not retained on Coronelli's map) would remain mysterious until its true source was discovered by Waldecker in 1937,

Coronelli's map is not the first to dispense with the long-cherished Ptolemaic Nile: the extremely rare four-sheet Du Val of 1678 has that honor; Coronelli's name is first associated with the new geographical model in the 1689 Coronelli-Nolin map of Africa, also separately issued and extremely rare. Although these two maps pre-date the map appearing in Coronelli's 1691 *Atlante Veneto*, neither were as widely disseminated or seen as this one and consequently neither had as much impact,

The large cartouche in the lower left-hand corner of the west sheet consists of an animal skin hanging from palm trees. On the left are an ostrich, a crocodile, a leopard and a lion. A camel and a lion appear in full view on the right with an elephant's head peeping out from under the skin. The sea is not decorated but the mainland is embellished with all kinds of animals, together with scenes of horsemen in combat with lions and archers aiming at a large ostrich-like bird. A most noticeable feature of the decoration on the mainland is a scene consisting of a large piece of drapery containing information about the source of the Nile, at the very top of which there is an angel blowing a trumpet, while another holds one corner of the drapery on which the recording angel has just written the legend. To the right is a bearded figure - Father Nile - reclining against a bowl from which water is rushing over the back of a crocodile.

Coronelli knew well the importance of this geographical change, and on this map he emphasized it with a dramatic cartouche in the center. Coronelli's descriptive text is shown on a grand tapestry, suspended on the right by a putto and on the left hanging from the pinnacle of a Great Pyramid. A geographer - identified as such by the globe he uses as a footstool - points out the names of the scholar Hiob Ludolf and the Portuguese Jesuit Balthazar Tellez, two of the sources of the new information. A classical river god pours the river out of his jar, dousing a crocodile and threatening to inundate the geographer's maps and books. The winged, classical avatar of Fame hovers atop the scene, pointing out the new course of the Nile on the map, playing her vuvuzela.

In addition to the crocodile in the descriptive cartouche, the title/dedicatory cartouche features lions, a camel, an ostrich ... and another crocodile. The body of the map, however, is home to dozens of animals and monsters - some recognizable, some less familiar (apparently the Gambia River was thought to be home to giant hedgehogs, and the fabled Roc makes an appearance, carrying off a horse.)





This 1690 map by Vincenzo Coronelli shows the latest discoveries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and is dedicated to the Jesuit missionaries at work in China and elsewhere in Asia. The two sheet map shows Asia in its fullest extent, from Central Europe to New Zealand. The lands and seas are thick with annotations and toponyms, showing the extent to which Europeans were interested in the Far East. In northern China, the Great Wall is drawn in. Not all is known, however, as Australia is shown as connected to New Guinea and is incomplete in its outline.

Within Africa, which is left blank, there is a large dedicatory cartouche. It lauds the work of the Jesuits, or the Society of Jesus, who were then the leading Catholic missionaries in Asia. In the middle of the map, the lower right corner of the western sheet, is an elaborate title cartouche. It shows the title, written on a large rock, which is placed in front of a tent. Next to the rock are exoticized versions of Asian men wearing elaborate turbans, riding camels, and smoking pipes. In the upper right corner of the eastern sheet, the scale is printed on a piece of fabric, which is draped over a pedestal.

Sweet, in his catalogue on Asia, states that Coronelli probably collaborated with Tillemont, producing this exceptionally accurate and up to date map. It is odd therefore that Quiros' discovery of the New Hebrides is not shown and that the map notes that New Zealand was discovered in 1654 and not the correct date of 1642. These inconsistencies reveal the compilation method by which early modern maps were made.

This map, like all maps, is a mixture of known and unknown. The outlines of Asia seem familiar and the density of place names suggests knowledge and mastery. However, details reveal stories that were passed down and repeated throughout early modern mapping. For example, the map shows the long-held European assumption that all rivers in Southeast Asia had a common source. Here, it is the *L. Di Chiamay*, which gives rise to four rivers that flow south into Indochina. John Speed showed the lake

similarly. Other geographers had the lake doing even more fluvial work; Blaeu had *Lake Chiamay*, near *Tartary*, as the start of six rivers. A major catalyst for this particular cartographic configuration was Matteo Ricci, the Jesuit cartographer (see #441). He includes *Lake Chiamay* on his maps, an idea he probably picked up from European maps he carried with him to China, as well by reading Bon Po and Buddhist doctrines.

Ricci points to the influence of missionaries in this map. Coronelli has dedicated this map to the Jesuit missionaries, in particular the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Thyrus González de Santalla. Gonzalez, a Spaniard, was the thirteenth Superior General of the order founded by St. Francis Xavier and St. Ignatius of Loyola.

St. Francis Xavier had traveled extensively in Asia and had first attempted to reach China in 1552, but he died on the island of Shangchuan. Three decades later, Matteo Ricci and others established missions on the Chinese mainland. Ricci made the first Western-style map of the world in China in 1602 (#441) and derivations of this map affected Asian cartography for the next two centuries. Most of what Europe knew of China was mediated by the Jesuit missionaries of the late 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Another example of received wisdom and the perpetuation of myths is east of Japan, where a large landmass is labeled as *Terra d'lesso*. This island is on many 18<sup>th</sup> century maps. Historically, *Eso* (*Yedso*, *Yesso*) refers to the island of Hokkaido. It varies from a small island to a near-continent sized mass that stretches from Asia to Alaska. Here, however, Coronelli tells the reader that the Dutch discovered the island in 1643, which indicates that he is equating *Yesso* with two other North Pacific chimeras, *Gamaland* and *Compagnies Land*.

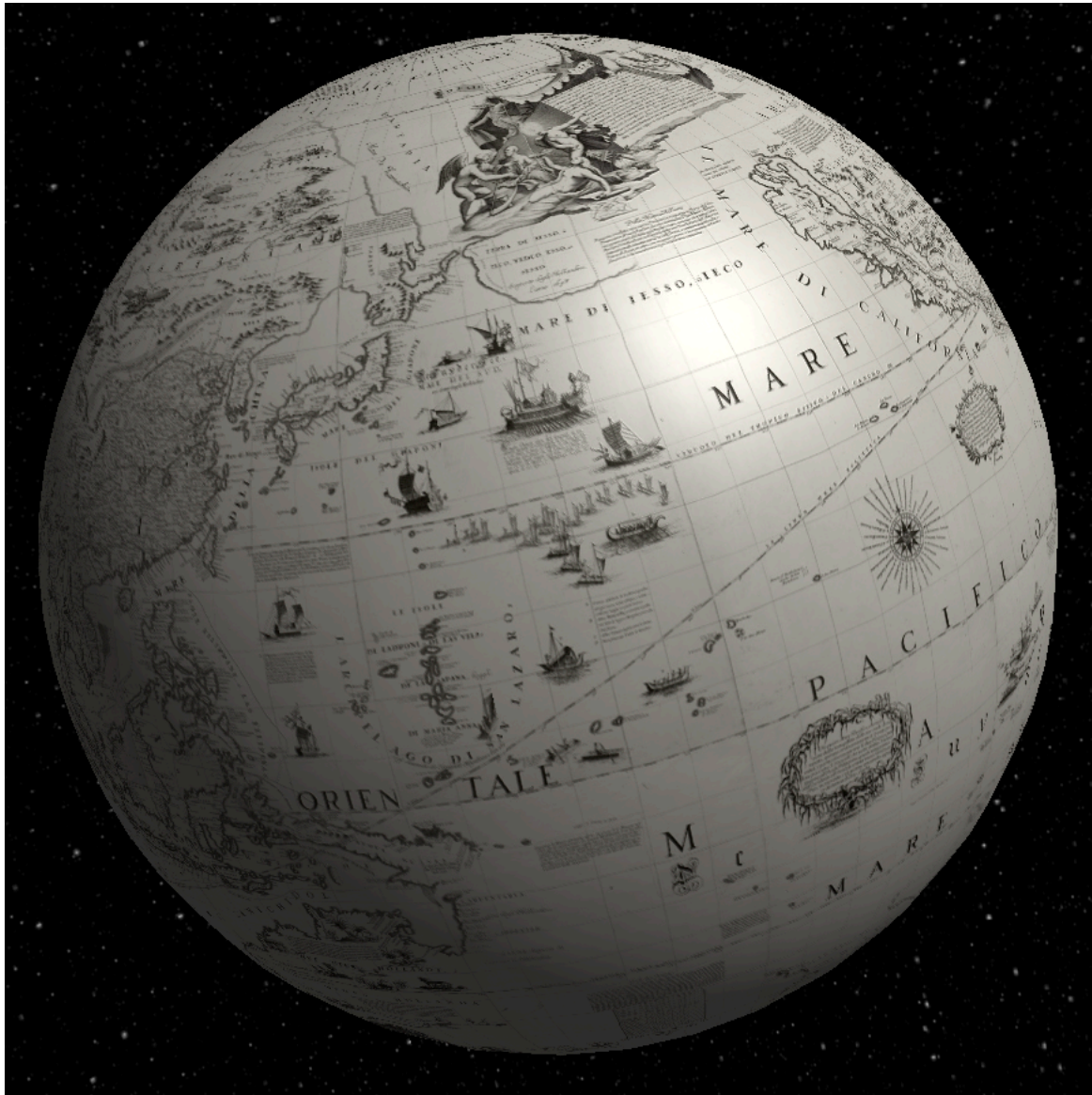
Juan, the grandson of Vasco de Gama, was a Portuguese navigator who was accused of illegal trading with the Spanish in the East Indies. Gama fled and sailed from Macau to Japan in the later 16<sup>th</sup> century. He then struck out east, across the Pacific, and supposedly saw lands in the North Pacific. These lands were initially shown as small islands on Portuguese charts, but ballooned into a continent-sized landmass in later representations. Several voyagers sought out de Gama's lands, including the Dutchmen Matthijs Hendrickszoon Quast in 1639 and Maarten Gerritszoon Vries in 1643. After this map's publication, Vitus Bering, a Danish explorer in Russian employ, and James Cook would both check the area and find nothing, finally putting to rest the myth of *Gamaland*.

*Compagnies Land*, along with *Staten Land*, were islands sighted by Vries on his 1643 voyage. He named the island for the Dutch States General (*Staten Land*) and for the Dutch East India Company (VOC) (*Compagnies*, or *Company's Land*). In reality, he had re-discovered two of the Kuril Islands. However, other mapmakers latched onto *Compagnies Land* in particular, enlarging and merging it with *Yesso* and/or *Gamaland*. It is clear Coronelli had Vries and his voyage in mind, as a strait to the east of *Yesso* is named *Stretto Vriez*.

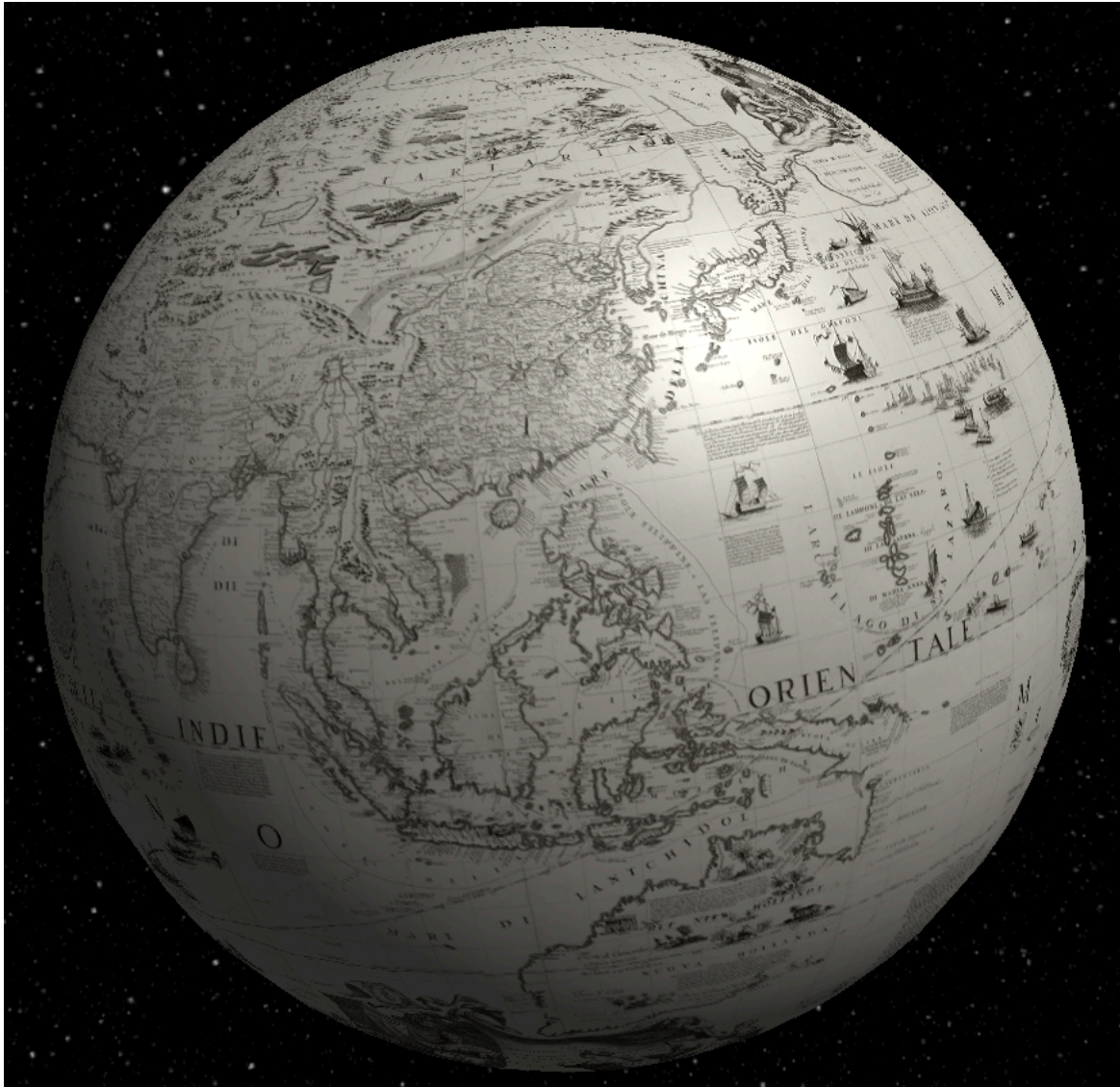
Farther south, more Dutch voyages are chronicled. These include Tasman's voyages to *Van Dieman's Land* and New Zealand in the 1640s. In Australia, Coronelli discusses the transfer of knowledge. Some thought, he writes, that Australia was mentioned by Marco Polo as the kingdoms of *Maletur* (*Malatur*) and *Lucach* (*Lochac*). However, more recent compilers had questioned this designation.

Coronelli decided to plot Australia based on what was known from the Dutch encounters with the continent. For example, in the north is *Terra di Arnheim*, which refers to Jan Carstenz's voyage in the Arnheim in 1623. On the southern coast, *Terra di Pietro Nuyts* refers to the voyage of the Gulden Zeepaard, commanded by Nuyts, in 1627.



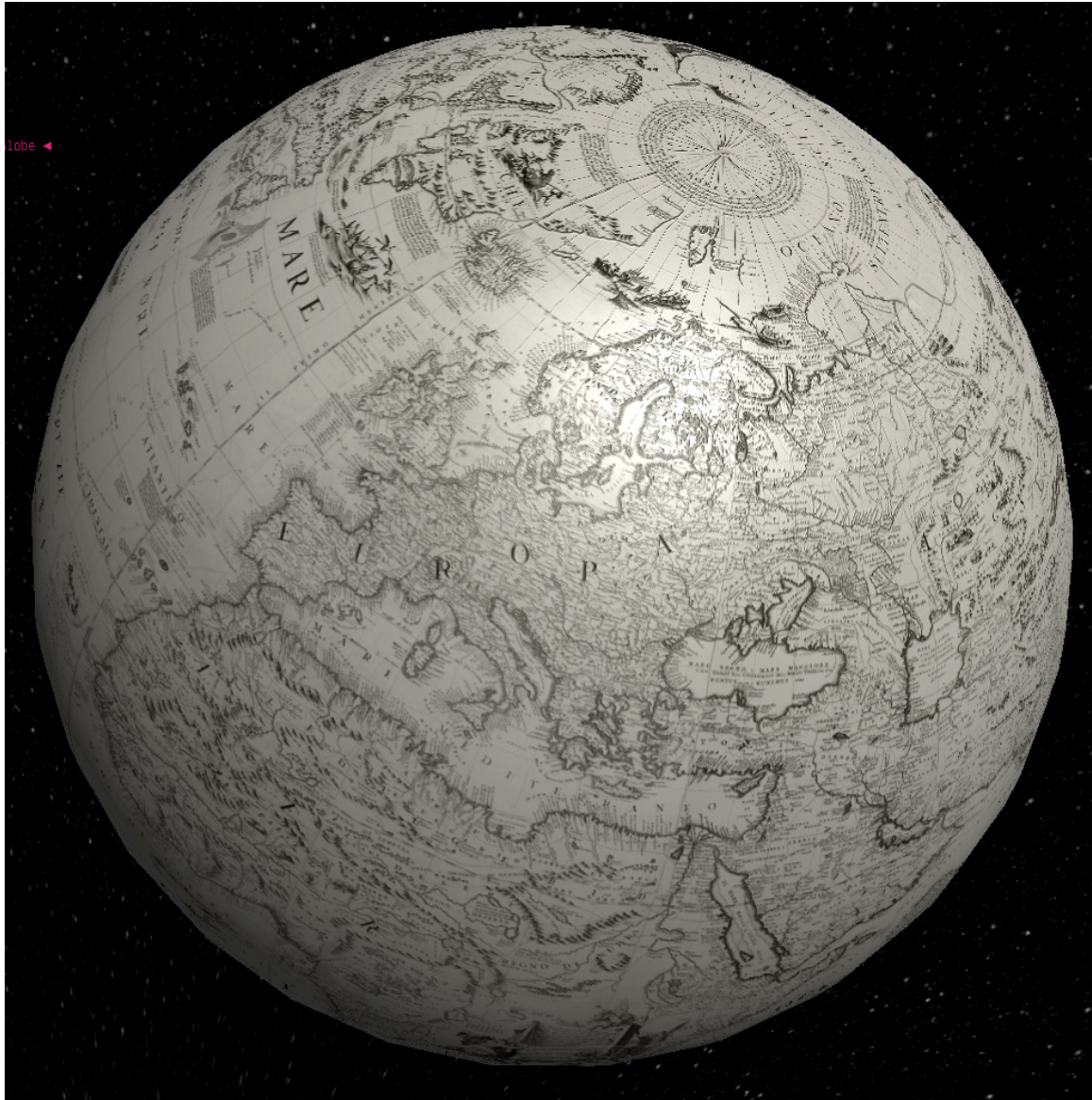




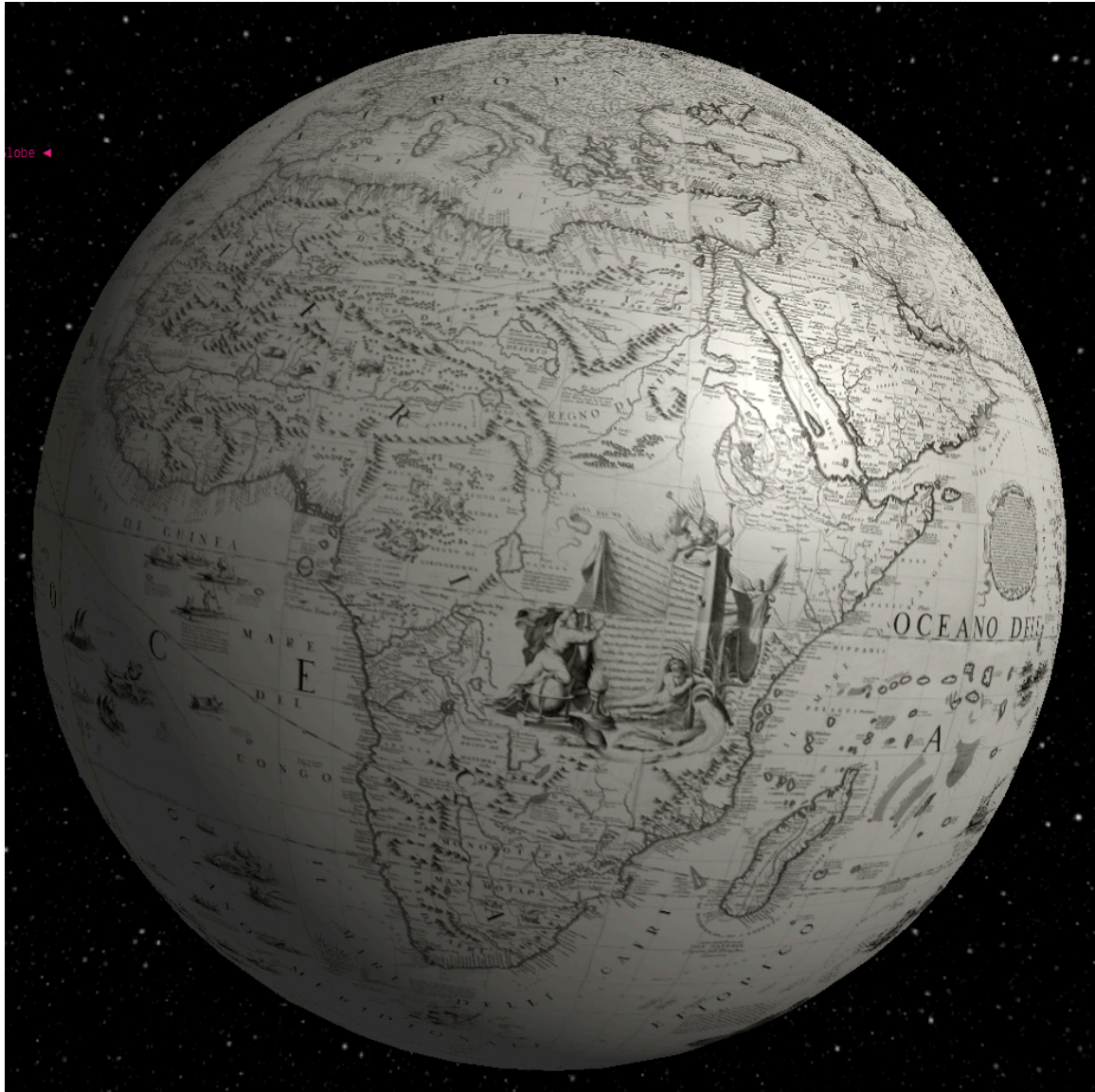


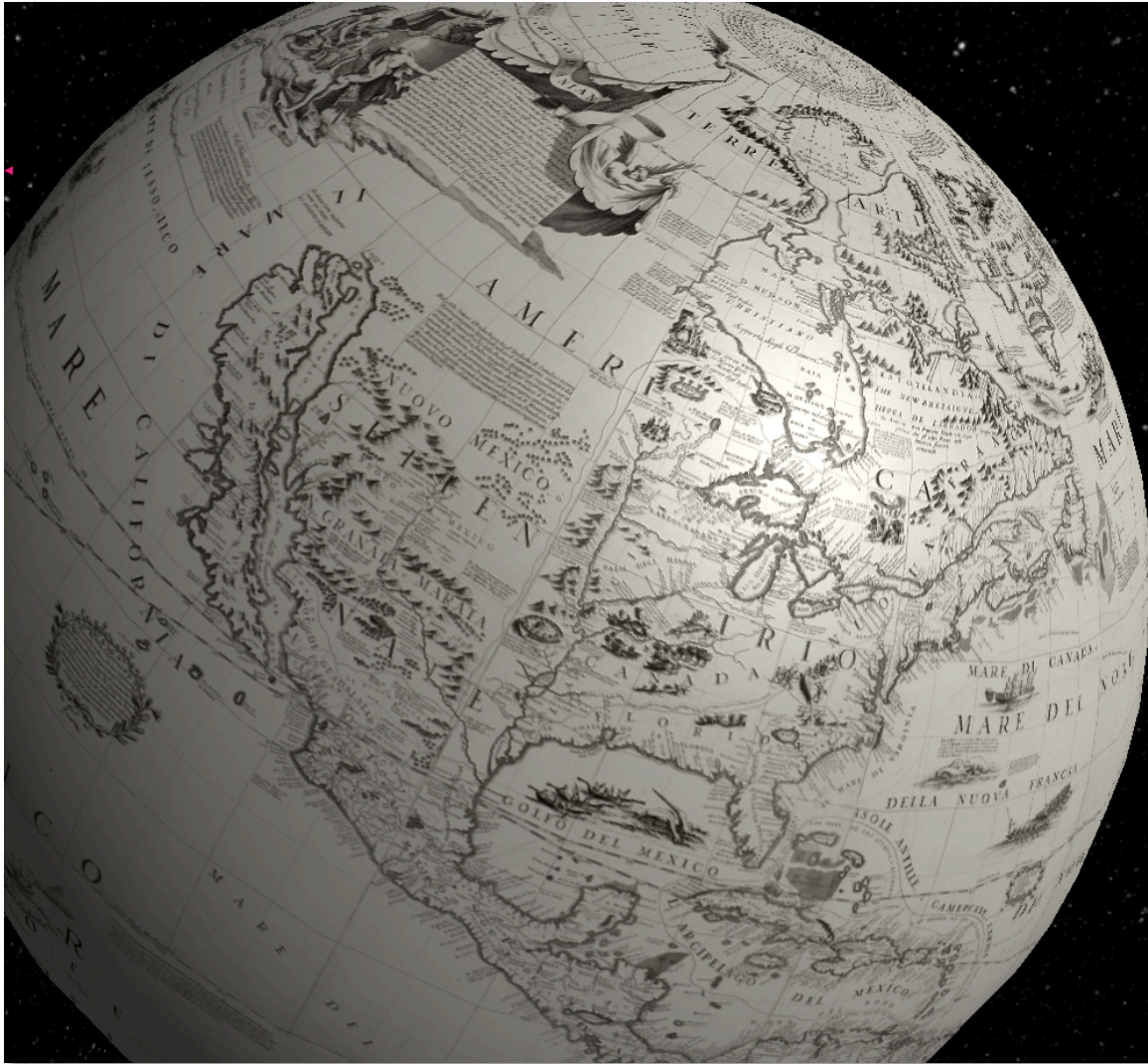


















*Facsimile produced by Dr. D. W. Larson, Emeritus Professor  
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada*

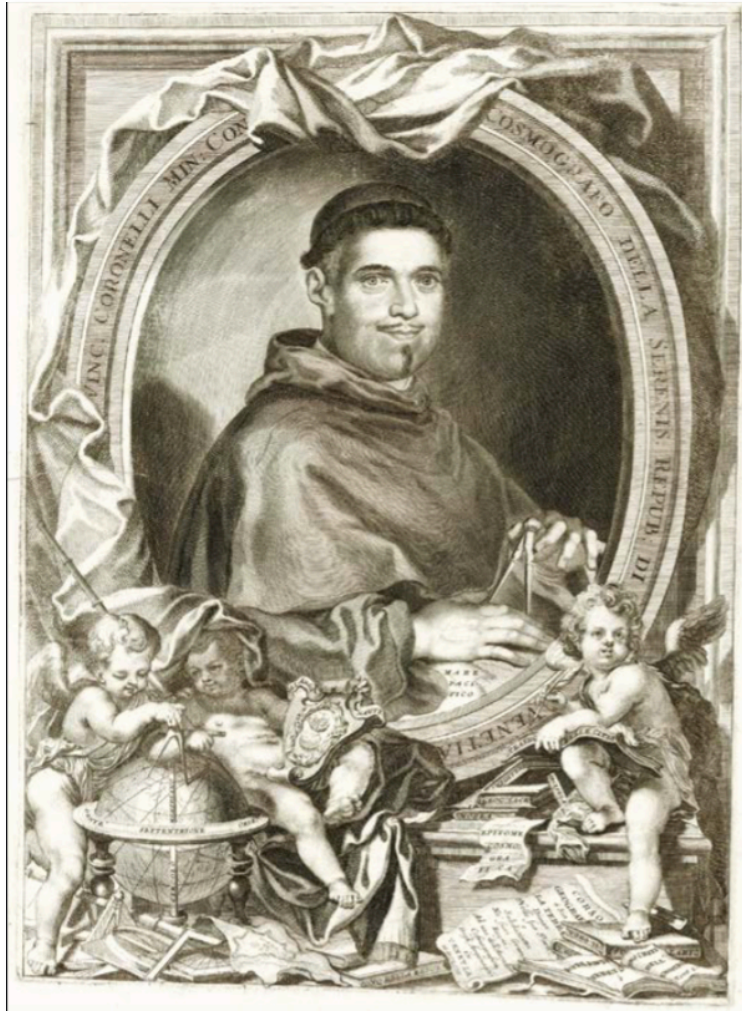






Vincenzo Coronelli surrounded by examples of his cartographic works, presents to Pope Clement XI Volume I of his *Biblioteca Universale*, the first modern encyclopedia. On the shelves are displayed volumes of his atlas series *Atlante Veneto*, 1691-1698





*Vincenzo Coronelli (1650–1718) became a celebrated Italian cartographer and globe maker, but started as a novice in the Franciscan Order at thirteen. Thirty- five years later he became the Father General of the Order, as he appears in this portrait, but was removed from office three years later by the Pope, after complaints from fellow clerics.*

*An early commission for two globes for the Duke of Parma brought him to the attention of the Cardinal d'Estrées, who summoned him to Paris to create two huge globes for Louis XIV. They each had a diameter of 15 feet, and were built with trapdoors so they could be worked on from the inside. He was made royal cartographer to Louis XIV in 1681 as a result, and worked in Paris for two years. He collaborated with Jean Baptiste Nolin, who went on to become the French publisher for all of Coronelli's work. On his return to Venice, Coronelli was made cosmographer to the Republic, and granted a stipend of 400 florins a year. Coronelli founded the world's oldest surviving geographical society, the Accademia degli Argonauti, named for Jason and the Argonauts, the adventurers who set out to find the golden fleece; their symbol was the globe surmounted by a ship in full sail. The present portrait was included at the beginning of his 'Corso geografico universale, o sia la terra divisa nelle sue parti e subdistinta ne' suoi gran regni', first published in 1692. It shows Coronelli in a hooded robe, using a pair of compasses and a globe. His image is set within a trompe l'oeil, with three winged putti in the foreground surrounded by books, documents and cartographic instruments.*