


# **ARTISTIC DECORATIONS IN EARLY MODERN CARTOGRAPHY:**

## **A STUDY CASE OF MAPS OF THE DUTCH GOLDEN AGE**

# Questions

- Why decorations were used.
- Why they looked the way they looked.
- Why they were placed where they were placed.
- Sources of the iconography of the decorations.

# Motivation

- Motivation for cartographic decorations:
  - the meaning of cartographic decorations (if/when there was one) is lost.
- Motivation for choosing the Dutch Golden Age:
  - Dutch Golden Age (~17th century)
  - Riches + Freedom  Cultural Achievements
  - Dutch cartographic ornamentation is unique in history of cartography

# Methodology

- Historical research:
  - maps are linked to a particular social context (Harley)
    - ✓ Sociopolitical context
    - ✓ Cultural context
    - ✓ Artistic context
    - ✓ Scientific context
    - ✓ Technological context

# Map Sources

- Online:
  - Osher Map Library
  - Wikimedia Commons
  - David Rumsey Map Collection
  - Washington Library Digital Collections
- Map Libraries in Vienna:
  - Woldan Collection (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

# A history of the Dutch Golden Age

- Social and political background

to the Union of Utrecht.

----- Boundary of the Common Lands in 1609

The United Netherlands are indicated by surface coloring; the Spanish Netherlands, by border coloring.

Abbreviations  
 Ab.=Abbacy; B.=Bishopric; C.=County;  
 D.=Duchy; L.=Lordship; M.=Marquisate

Scale 1:3 000 000

20 0 20 40 60  
 Miles

N O R T H

Antwerp

Courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.



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The map shows the following regions and cities:

- North:** DRENTH, L. of Drenthe, COEVOORDEN, C. of Bentheim.
- West:** FRIESLAND, Enkhuizen, Vollenhove, Medemblik, Westfriesland, Alkmaar, Hoorn, Edam, Wyk, Haarlem, Amsterdam (circled in blue), Muiden, Katwyk, Leyden, The Hague, Delft, Ysselstein, Utrecht, B. of Utrecht, GORINCHEM, Tiel, Waal, Nijmegen, Mook, Cleves, Goch, Wesel, Lippel, D. of Cleves, Geldern, Rhinberg, Duishburg, D. of Berg.
- Central:** ZEELAND, I. of Walcheren, Middelburg, Tussingen (Flushing), Blankenberghe, Ostend, Nieuport, Bruges, Ghent, Termonde, Wendermonde, L. of Flanders, Antwerp (circled in blue), Turnhout, Zandvliet, Bergen op Zoom, Roosendaal, Steenberghe, Schouwen, West Voorne, East Voorne, Briel, Breda, Tilburg, Helmond, Eindhoven, Gheel, Hamont, Peer, Maeseyck, Viersel, Roermond, Dusseldor, D. of Berg.
- South:** ZEELAND, I. of Walcheren, Middelburg, Tussingen (Flushing), Blankenberghe, Ostend, Nieuport, Bruges, Ghent, Termonde, Wendermonde, L. of Flanders, Antwerp (circled in blue), Turnhout, Zandvliet, Bergen op Zoom, Roosendaal, Steenberghe, Schouwen, West Voorne, East Voorne, Briel, Breda, Tilburg, Helmond, Eindhoven, Gheel, Hamont, Peer, Maeseyck, Viersel, Roermond, Dusseldor, D. of Berg.

Courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.



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  - Back-up from a well-organised cartographic education system

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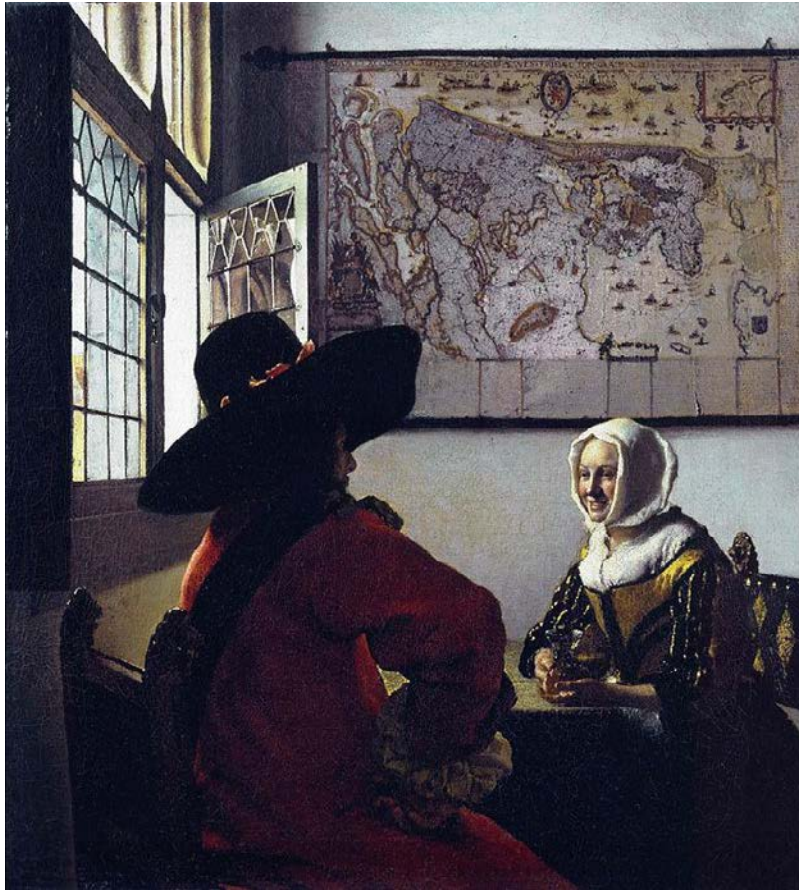
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      - Paintings and maps had to be commercial (pretty in order to be profitable)

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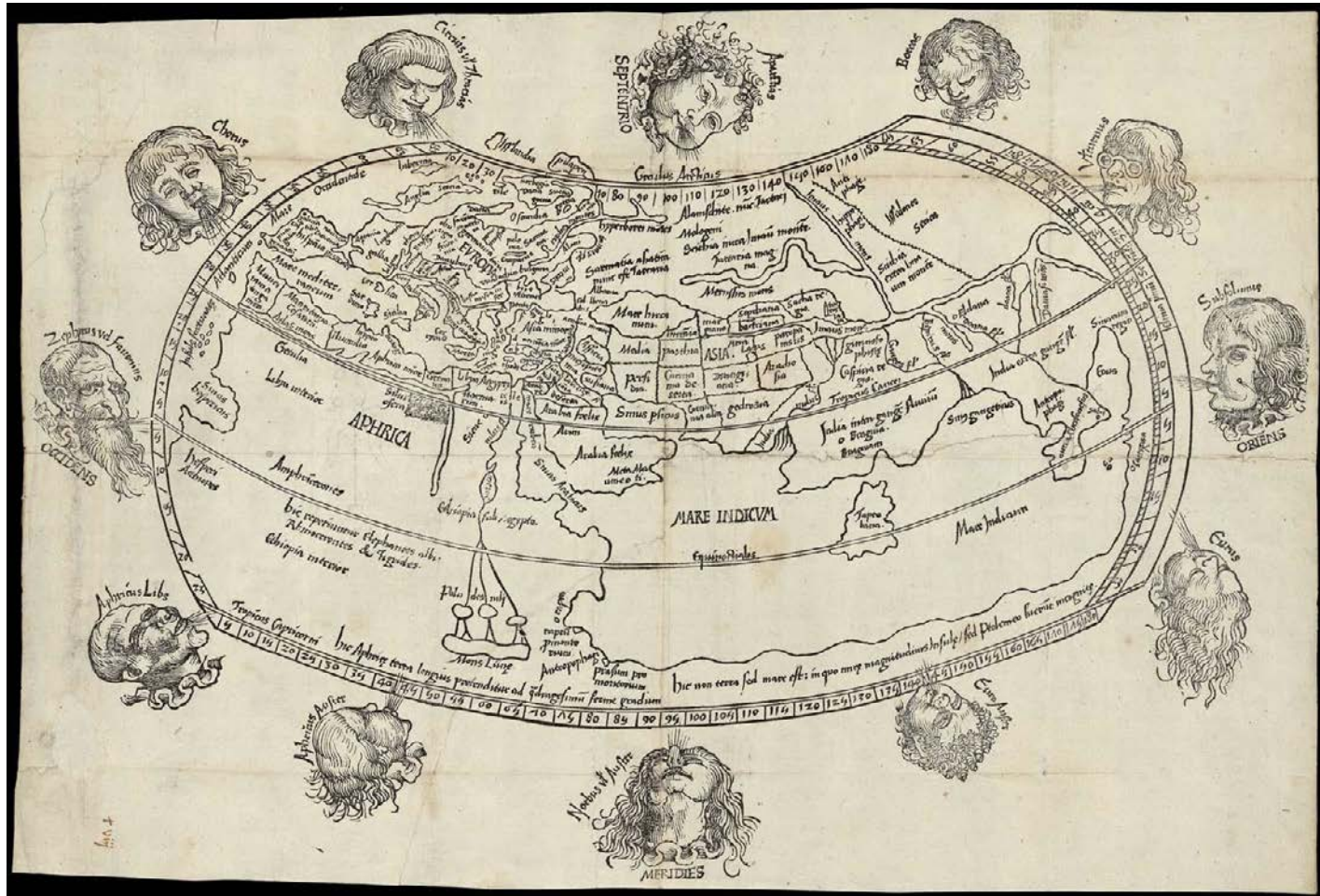
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      - Abraham Ortelius (added text-geohistorical content on the back of atlas maps)



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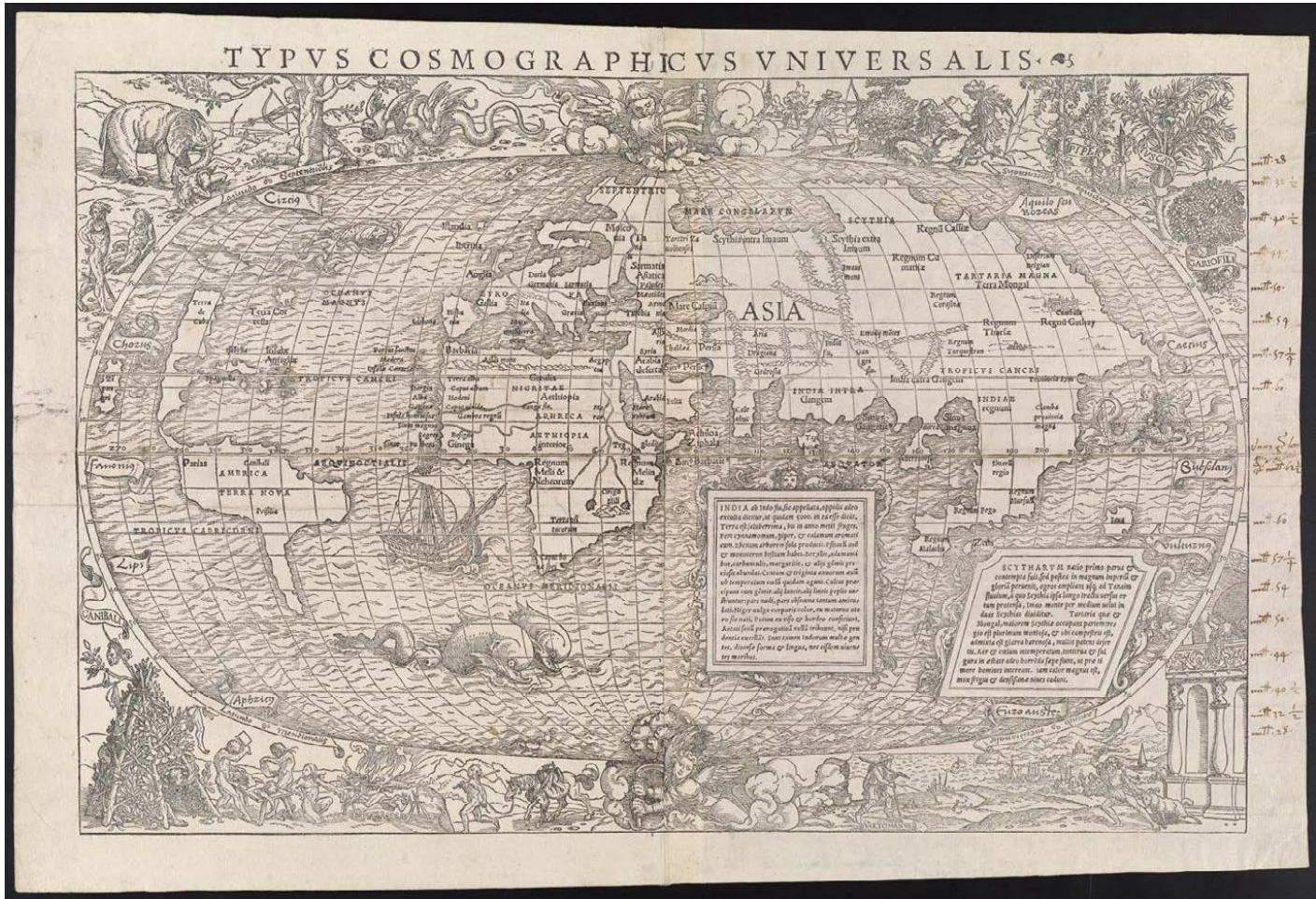


Untitled Ptolemaic map of the world, 1504

Courtesy of Osher Map Library



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Typus Cosmographicus Universalis, 1555.

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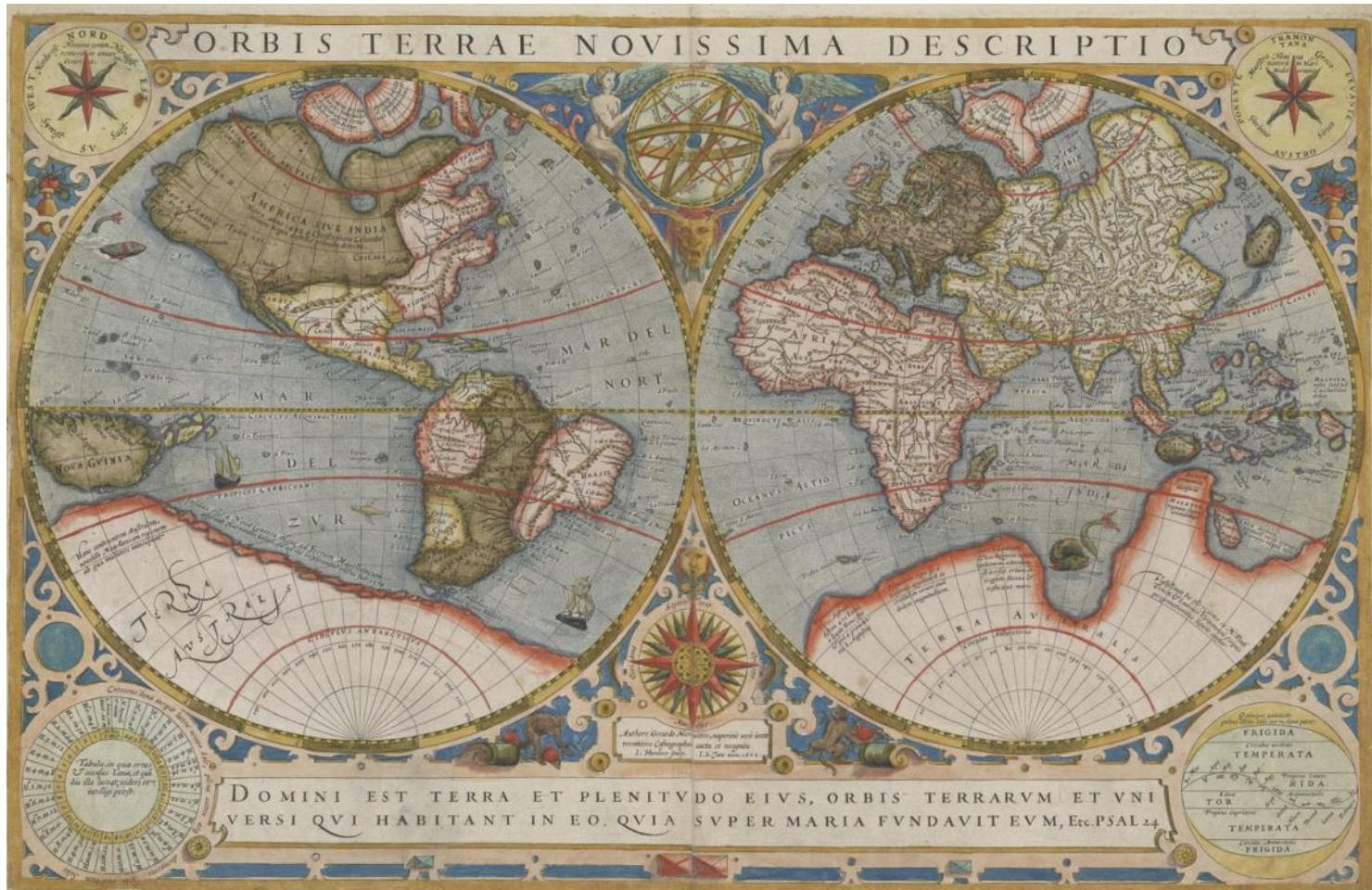


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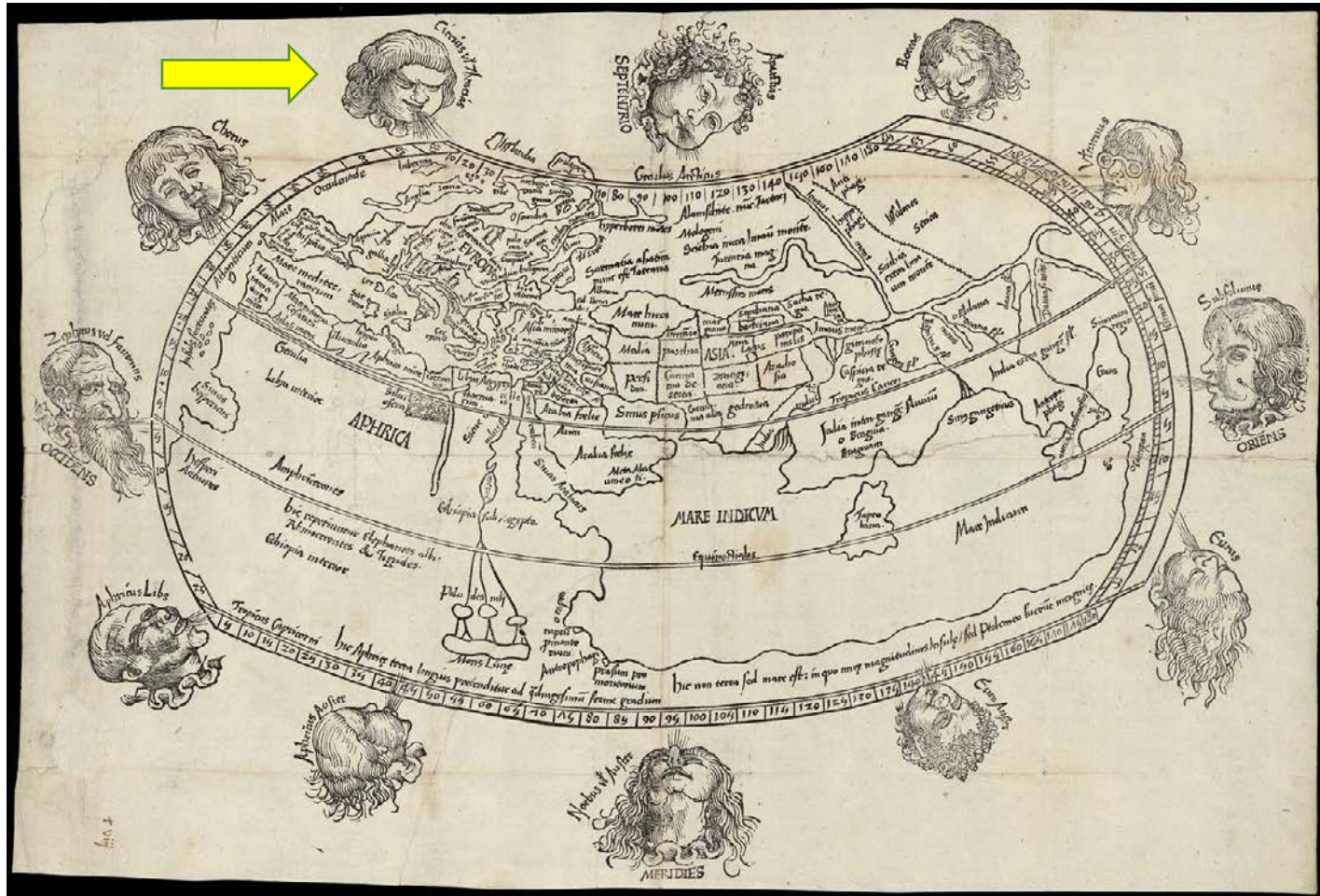


Orbis Terrarum Novissima Descriptio, 1602

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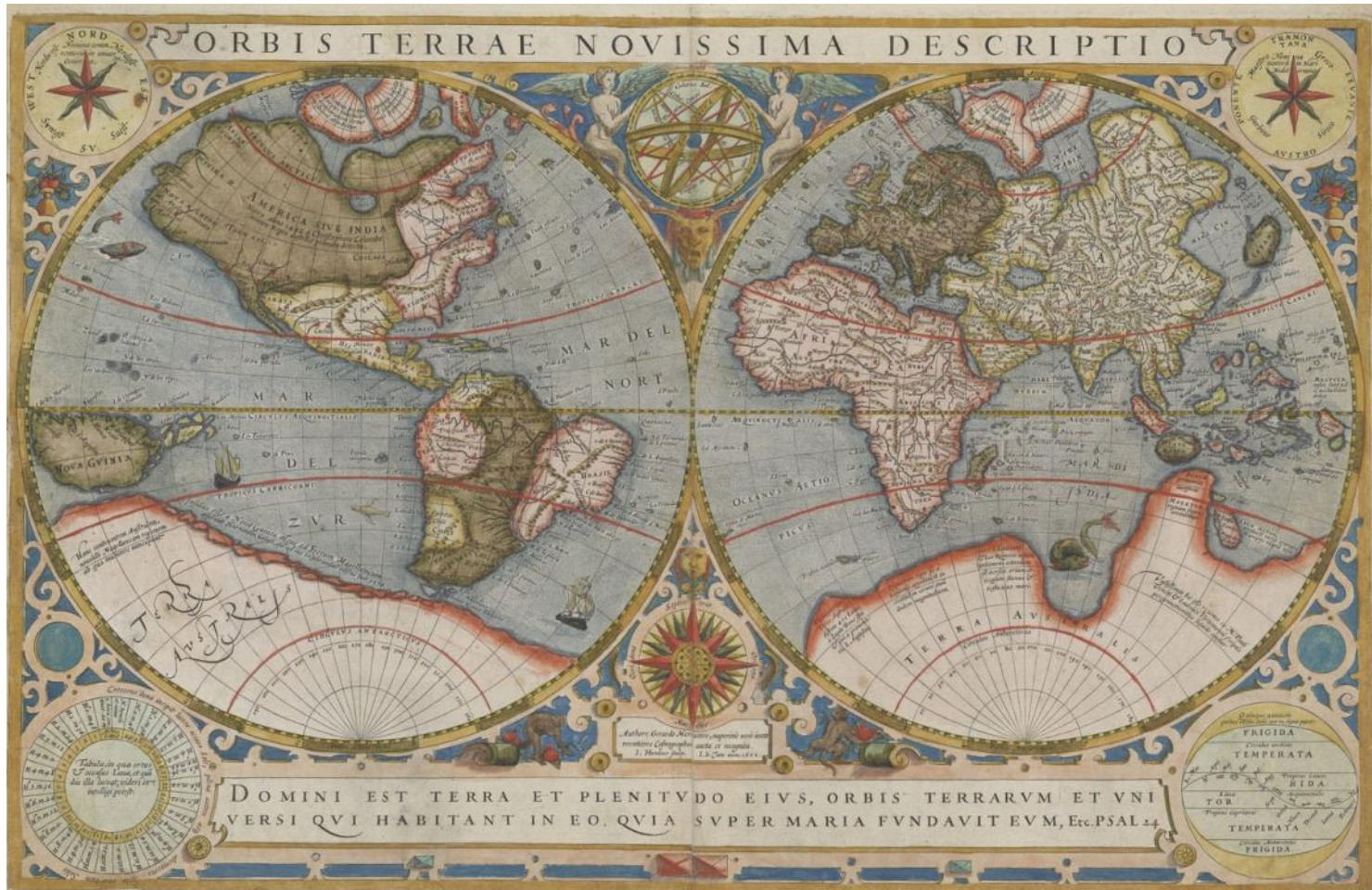


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Angliae et Hiberniae Accurata Descriptio [...], 1609

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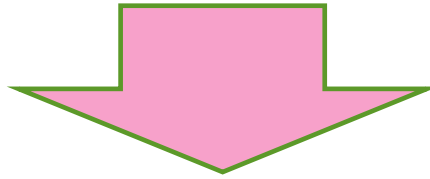
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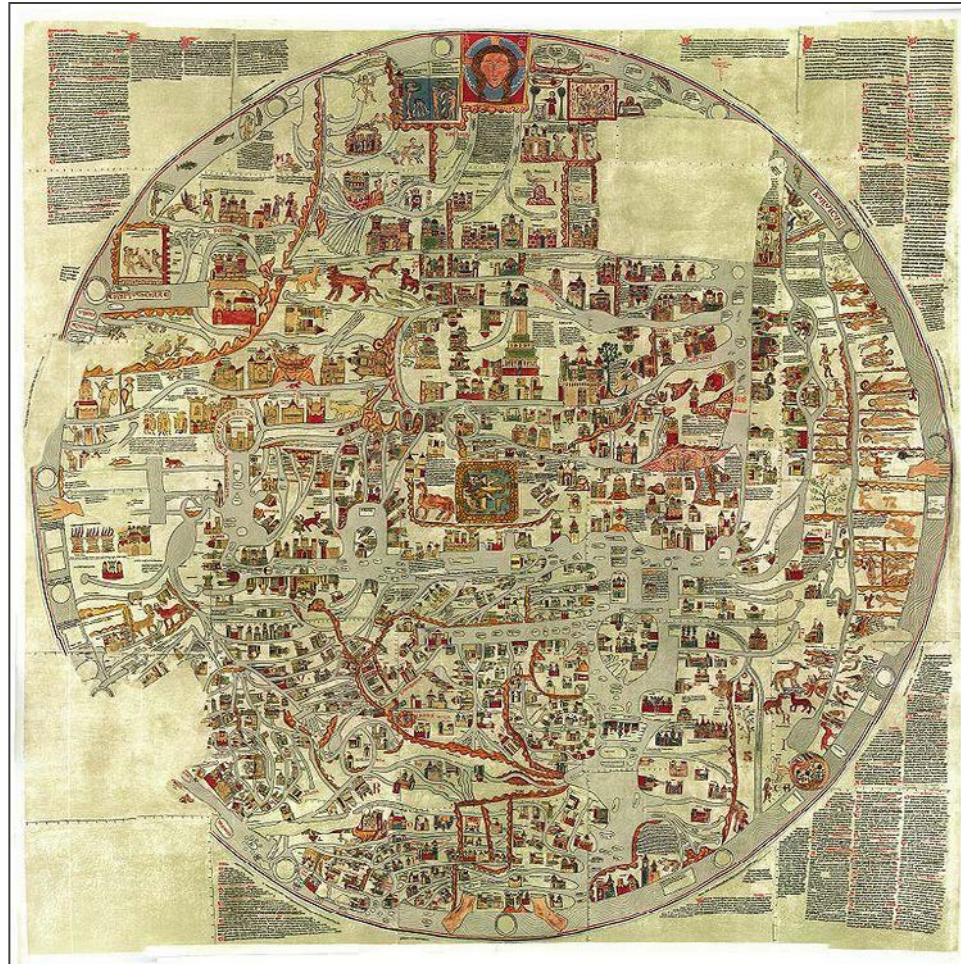
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The Dutch were considered the masters of cartographic decorations

# Artistic decorations

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Ebendorfer World Map, T-O-Design, ca. 1300

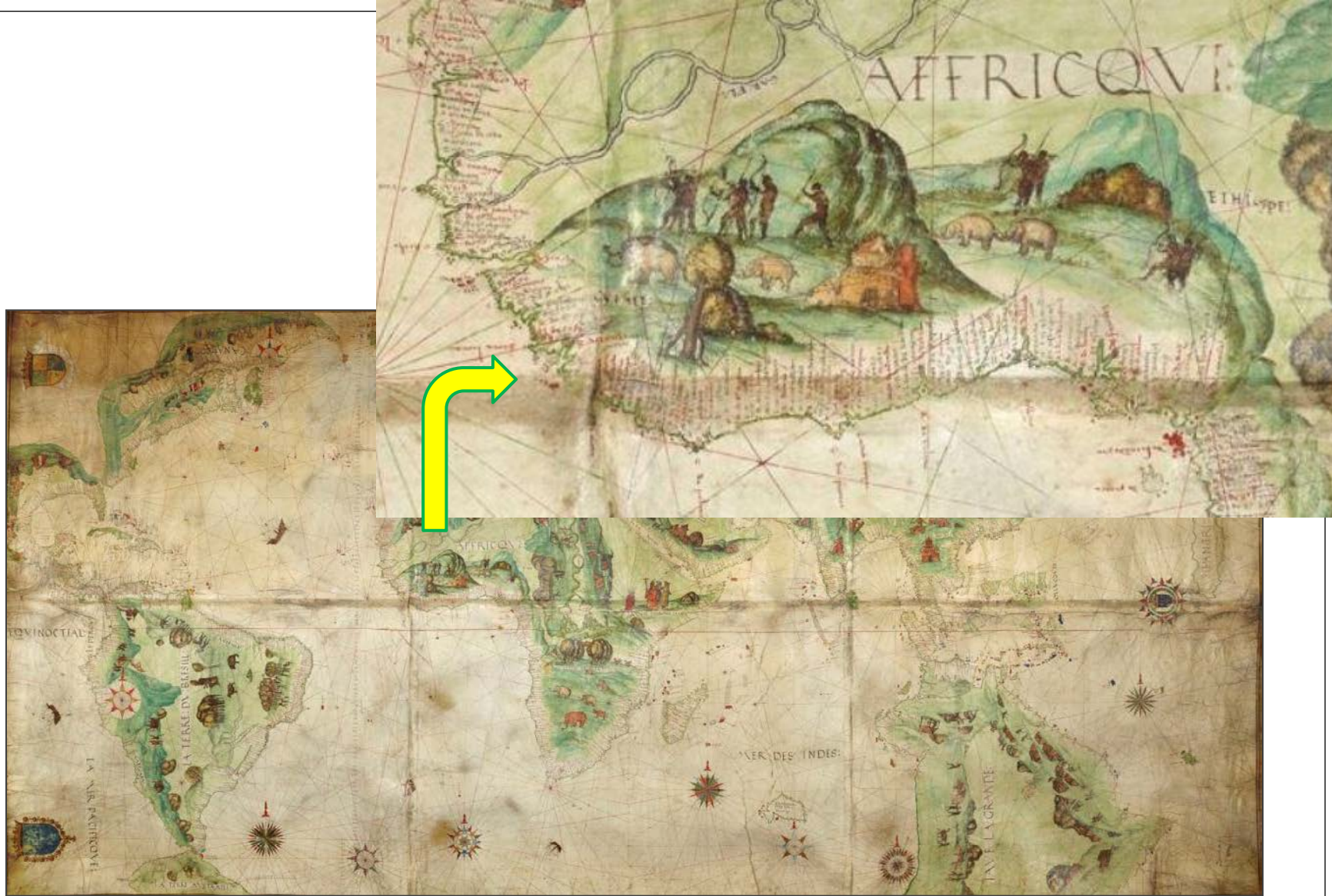


# Artistic decorations



The Harleian Mappemonde, 1550





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The Carta Marina of 1539 by Olaus Magnus.





# Artistic decorations

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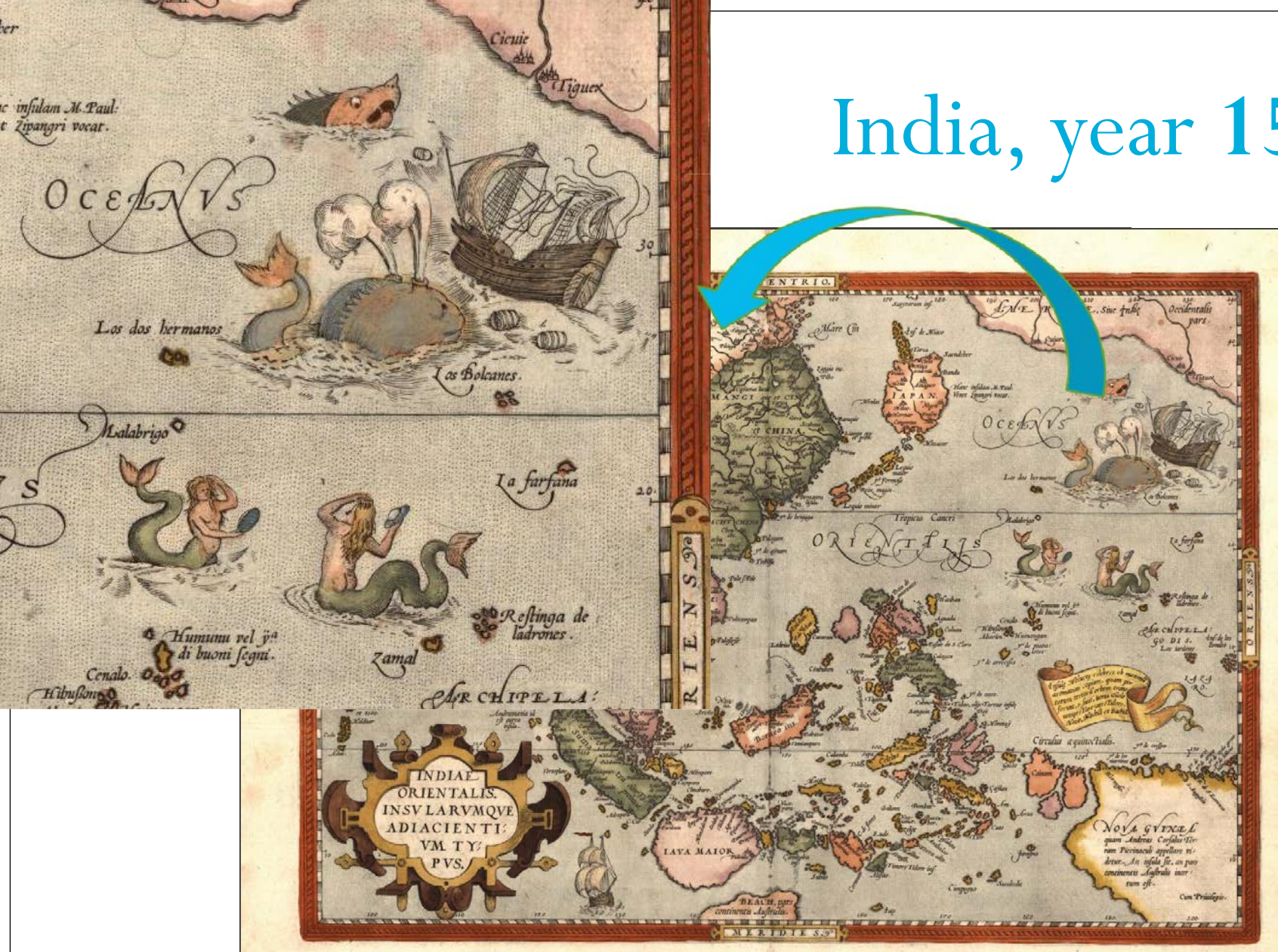
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# India, year 1570



Indiae Orientalis, Insularumque Adiacentium Typus , 1570 University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, MAP114.



# India, year 1662



Tabula Indiae Orientalis, 1662 *University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, MAP153.*



# Artistic decorations



Italiae Novissima Descriptio Avctore Iacobo Castaldo Pedemontano, 1579  
*University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, MAP111.*



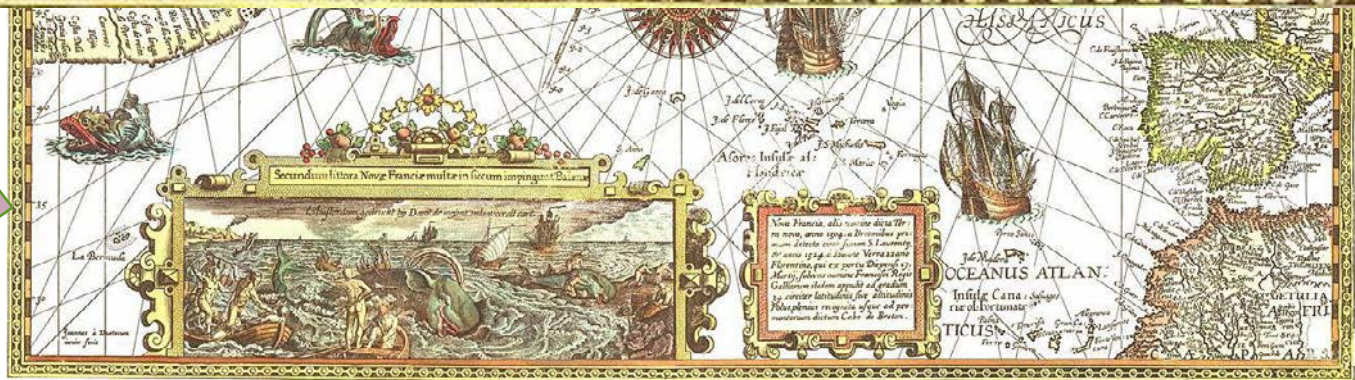
# Artistic decorations



Nova Francia alio nomine dicta Terra Nova, between 1592 and 1594.

Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain

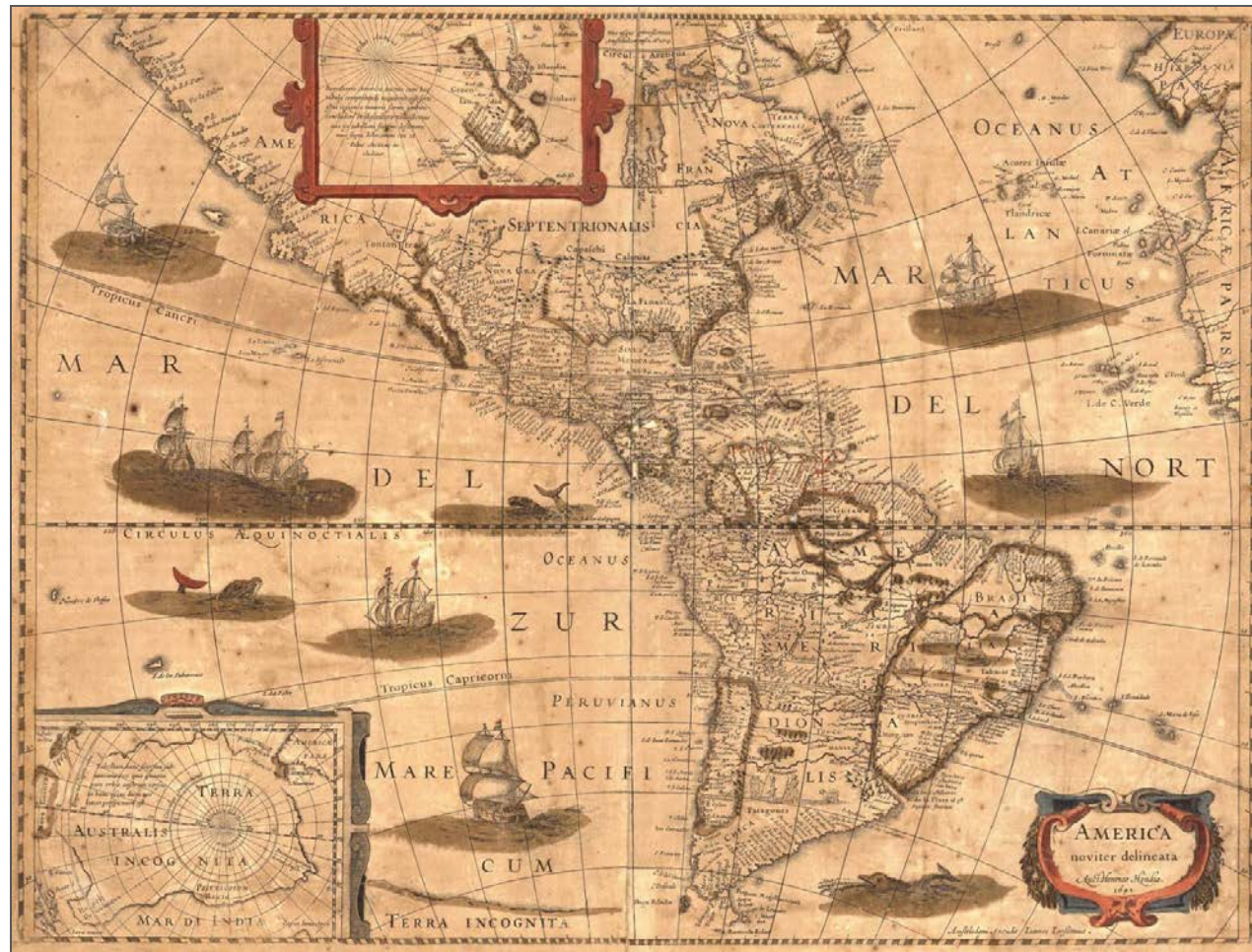




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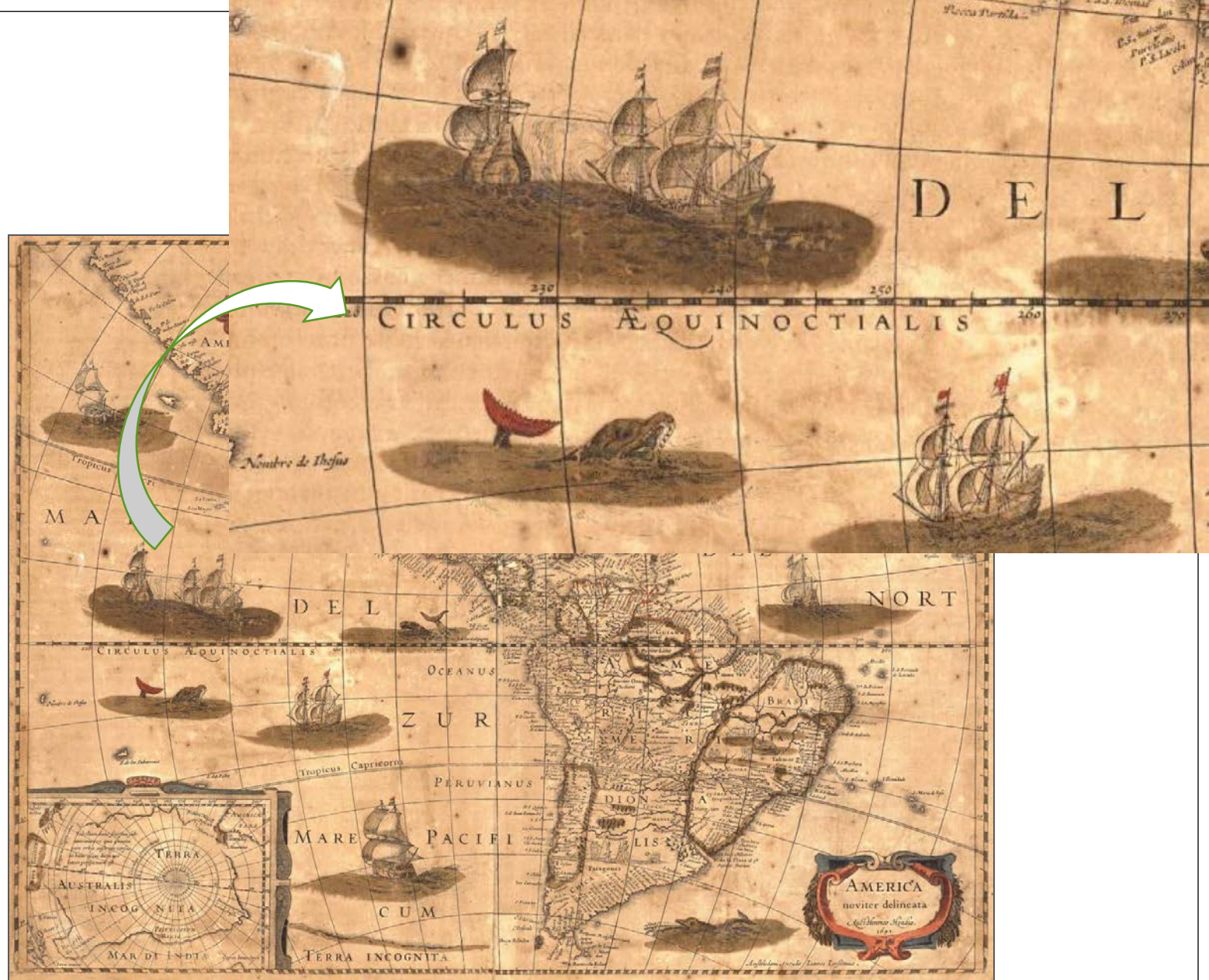


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"America noviter delineata", 1641 . *University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, MAP010.*





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  - Fear and ignorance gave way to knowledge and exploitation

# Artistic decorations

- Cartouches



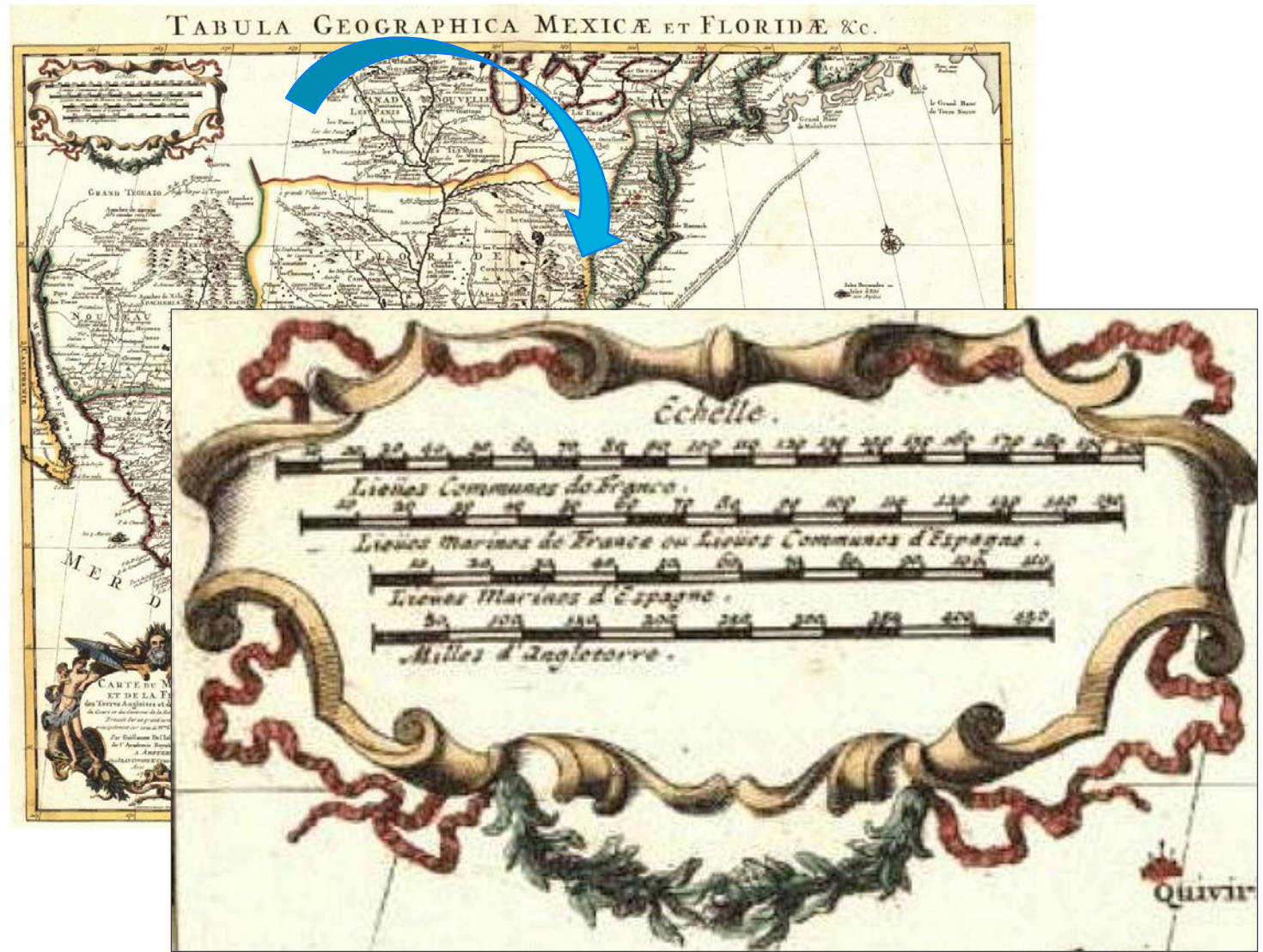
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"Tabula Geographica Mexicae et Floridae etc." , 1722 . *University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, MAP101.*



# Artistic decorations







Tabula Geographica Mexicae et Floridae etc. , 1722

# Artistic decorations

- Cartouches
  - Italian cartographers' creation







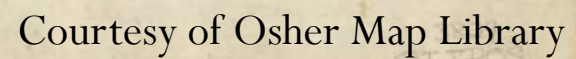
TAB. TOTIVS ORBIS.

ORBIS.TYPVS.VNIVERSALIS.IVXTA.F.HYDROGRAPHORVM.TRADITIONEM.EXACTISSIMEDEPICTA.1522.L.F.?



Courtesy of Osher Map Library









Courtesy of Osher Map Library

# Artistic decorations

- Cartouches
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  - Dutch cartographers copied from Italian craftsmen & added extravagant features to it (late Renaissance & Baroque influence)









GENIO ET INGENIO NO-  
BILI DN. NICOLAO ROCCOXIO,  
PATRICIO ANTVERPIENSI,  
EIVSDEMQUE VRBIS SENATORI,

*Abrahamus Ortelius* *Regiae M<sup>tes</sup> geographus*  
*sub. merito* *dedicabat.*

1589





Courtesy of  
Osher Map  
Library



Courtesy of Osher Map Library



# Artistic decorations

- Cartouches
  - Italian cartographers' creation
  - Dutch cartographers copied from Italian craftsmen & added extravagant features to it (late Renaissance & Baroque influence)
  - After roughly 1650, a geographical decorative theme was added to the cartouche.



Courtesy of  
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Courtesy of Osher Map Library





Courtesy of Osher Map Library

# Artistic decorations

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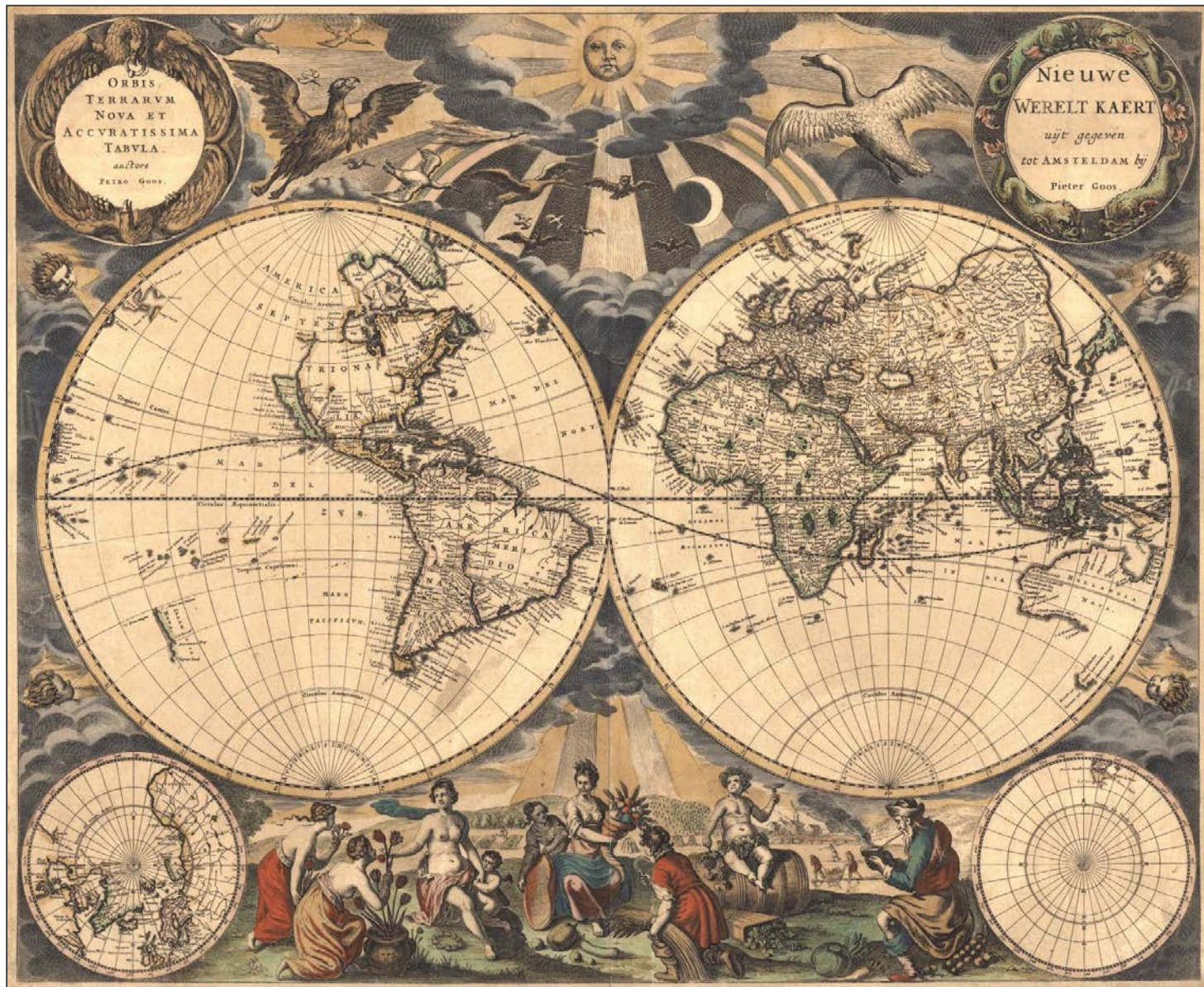




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  - In the spare space of double hemisphere maps





"Orbis Terrarum Nova et Accuratissima Tabula" , circa 1666. *University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, MAP007.*



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Courtesy of Osher Map Library



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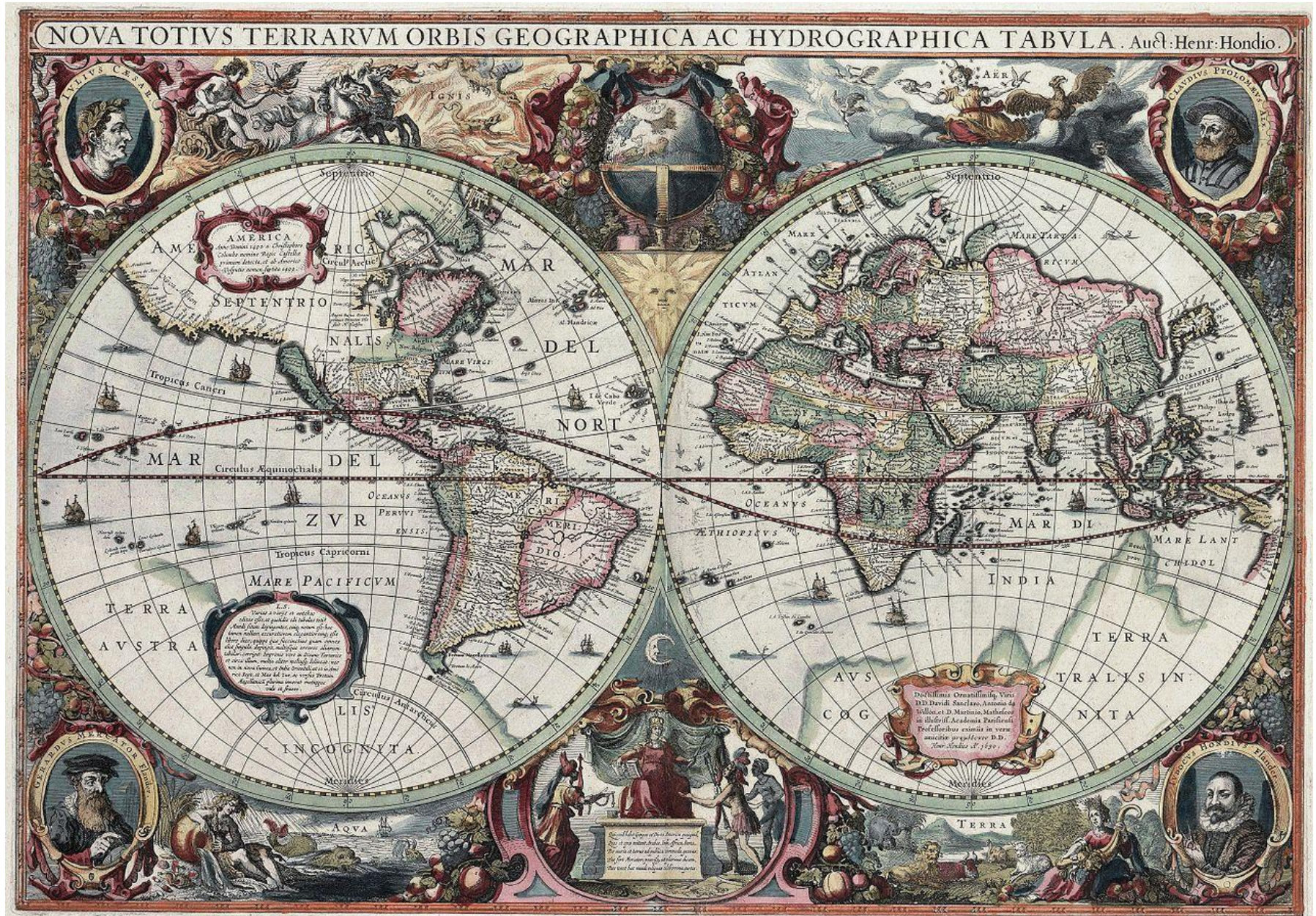




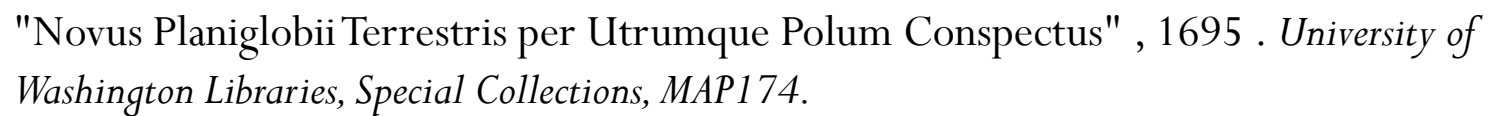
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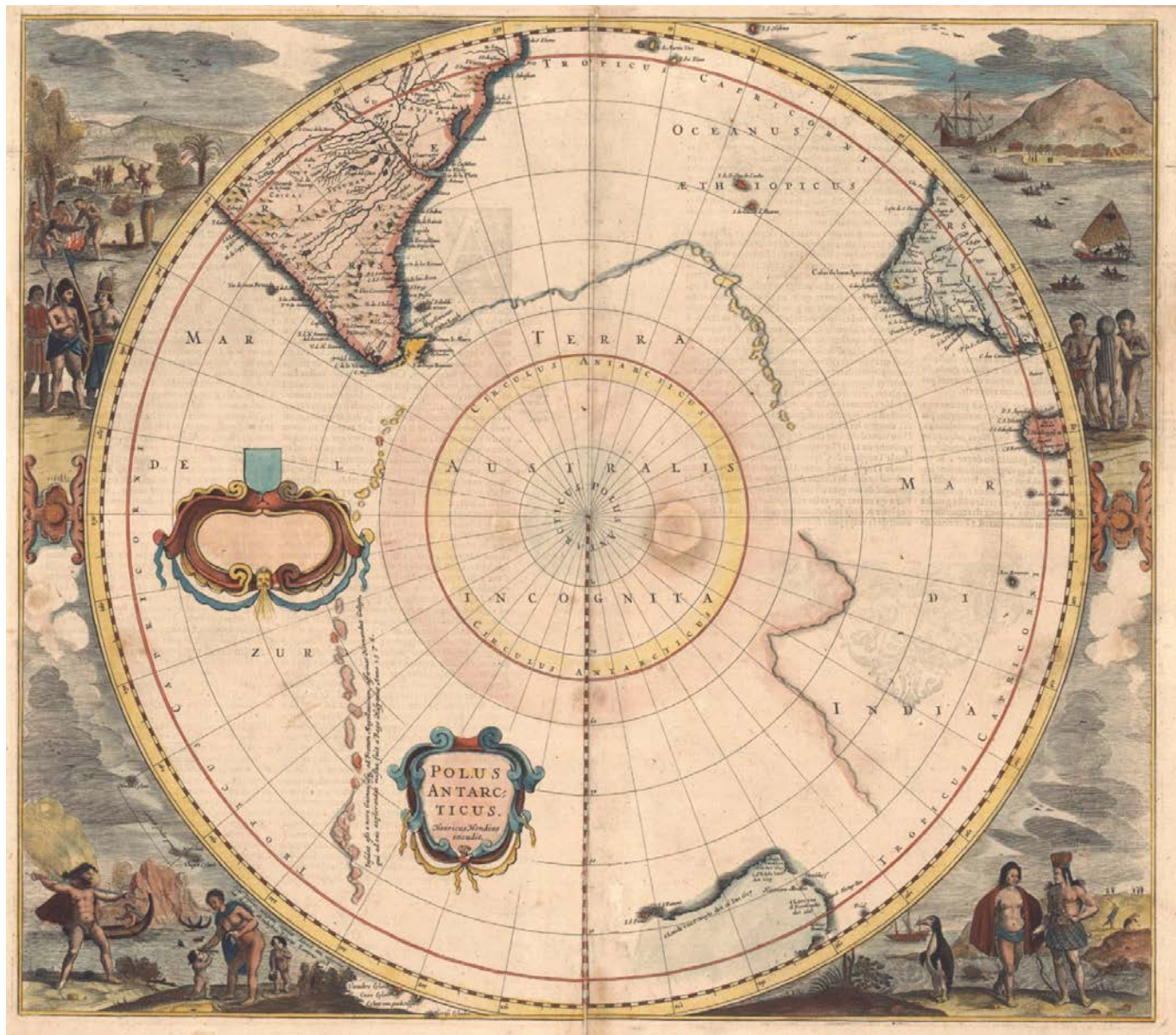
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“Polus Antarcticus”, circa 1637 . *University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, MAP135.*

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*Cartography is connected to the graphic arts*

Thank you, for your attention!