

JAVE LA GRANDE, A PART OF TERRA AUSTRALIS?

Robert J. King

Did Portuguese navigators discover Australia in the early 16th century? No! As Joachim Pedro de Oliveira Martins, the Portuguese maritime historian who examined this question concluded: "Australia was not visited by any Portuguese in the sixteenth century".

If there had been a Portuguese discovery it would have been shown on the world map of Diego Ribeiro, a Portuguese cosmographer in the service of the King of Spain.

There is no mystery to the Dieppe maps when they are seen in the context of cartographic history: they expressed the cosmographic concepts of the period. This accounts for the superficial resemblance of their *Jave la Grande* to Australia. *Jave la Grande* can be accounted for by developments in cosmographic theory without the necessity of positing unrecorded voyages of discovery by Portuguese or other early 16th century voyagers.

The Dieppe cartographers incorporated into their world maps the cosmographic concepts of Oronce Fine, Professor of Mathematics and cosmographer to the King of France. Fine's 1531 map of the world shows a large promontory attached to the continent of *TERRA AVSTRALIS* and extending northward almost to the Tropic of Capricorn: this promontory is named *REGIO PATALIS* ("the Region of Patala"). The Dieppe mapmakers identified *Jave la Grande* with Oronce Fine's *Regio Patalis*.

Jave la Grande was "the great island called Java" described by Marco Polo. He called it *Java Major* to differentiate it from *Java Minor* (Sumatra). Book III of Marco Polo's *Travels* described his journey in 1292 by sea from China to India

by way of Champa, Locach and Sumatra (*Java Minor*). After a chapter describing the kingdom of Champa there follows a chapter in which he describes Java, which he did not visit. Marco refers to it as “the great island called Java, which in circuit extends (*patet*) three thousand miles around”. The narrative then resumes, describing the route southward from Champa toward Sumatra, but by a mistake in the text of Marco Polo’s *Travels* published in the 1532 volume, *The New World of Regions and Islands unknown to the Ancients*, the name “Java Major” was substituted for “Champa” as the point of departure. The locations of the places subsequently mentioned, *Locach* (Cambodia) *Pentan* (Bintang) and *Java Minor* (Sumatra), were mistakenly displaced far to the south of Java. *Java Minor* was located 1,300 miles to the south of Java.

Following Ferdinand Magellan’s round the world expedition of 1519-1522, *Java Minor* was relocated to the north of *Java Major*, separated from it by a narrow strait. This is shown on Fine’s map. This was done because after Magellan’s death at Mactan, near Cebu in the Philippines, Juan de Elcano had brought his ship, the *Vitoria*, home to Spain by sailing from the Moluccas by the south of Java. By making it appear that it was *Java Minor* that Elcano had sailed to the south of, the belief that Java extended far to the south could be maintained. This configuration of the two Javas is shown on Fine’s map, and copied on the Dieppe maps.

The belief that the land beyond Java extended far to the south seems to have owed much to Ludovico di Varthema, an Italian from Bologna who made a voyage in 1505 to Java. In his account of this he said Java, “*prope in inmensum patet* (extends almost beyond measure)”. Although the word *patet* (extends) has no connection with Patala, which was a city in ancient India, the superficial resemblance seems to have misled the mapmaker into assuming that *patalis* was the Latin word for “wide-spreading” (the adjective from *patere*, “to extend”, or *patet*, “extends”. Ludovico’s *Java patalis* could then easily have been identified with the *Regio patalis*. The land beyond Java was referred to by Ludovico as the Antipodes, for he had been told that, “lying under the other side of the said island [Java] there were certain people who... were the Antipodes”.

On some of the Dieppe maps, this promontory was not called *Jave la Grande* but *Locach*, or *Beach*. *Beach* was a corruption of *Locach*. In the cursive Gothic script the two forms appear similar:

Locach Boeach

(Locach Boeach)

Abraham Ortelius, explicitly identified the *Regio Patalis* with *Locach* as a northward extension of the *Terra Australis* on his world map of 1564. He inscribed on the eastern side of the northward extension of the Southern Continent: "This tract is called by some *Patalis*". The western side of the same promontory, he inscribed: "The Region of *Locach* seems to be placed here by M. Polo the Venetian".

Gerard Mercator produced a map of the world in 1538 modelled on that of Fine of 1531, but this map departed from Fine's by showing the southern continent much smaller, unnamed and bearing the inscription, "It is certain that there is a land here, but its size and the limits of its boundaries are uncertain". The outline of Fine's *Regio Patalis*, though shown as a promontory of this smaller antarctic continent, was likewise unnamed. On Mercator's 1541 globe, *Regio Patalis* was transformed into the promontory of *Beach*, with the inscription, "Beach the gold-bearing province". On this globe he inscribed over *Terra Australis*: "The great extent of these regions will easily be believed by whoever reads chapters 11 & 12 of book 3 of Marco Polo the Venetian together with chapter 27 of the book of Ludovico the Roman patrician". He identified the promontory with Marco Polo's *Locach/Beach*. *Beach* and "the Kingdom of *Locach*" (*Lucach regnum*) remained in this location on Mercator's world map of 1569, with an inscription, quoting Marco Polo, "Beach the gold-bearing province".

Apparently Mercator's Dieppe contemporaries reached a similar conclusion, based on the accounts of Marco Polo and Ludovico, although most of them identified Fine's *REGIO PATALIS* promontory with Marco Polo's Java Major—*Jave la Grande*. The identification with *Locach* was made by Guillaume Brouscon: his world map of 1543, like Mercator's, calls the northward extension of *Terra Australis*, the "land of *Locach*". It is separated from *la Jave grande* (Java) by a narrow strait or channel. Jean Cossin, another of the Dieppe cartographers, like Brouscon called this feature the "land of *Locach*" (*Terre de lucac*) on his 1570 world map. And Jacques de Vaulx de Claye produced a globe in 1583 on which this great promontory was called *Terre de Beac* and *Locac*, That is, like Ortelius in 1564, they identified the extensive land said by

Ludovico to lie to the south of Java as Locach, while their Dieppe colleagues called it *Jave la Grande* (Java Major).

Patala had been an ancient city at the mouth of the Indus River, conquered by Alexander the Great and mentioned in the writings of Pliny the Elder and Strabo. By medieval times its actual location had been lost and it appeared on most late 15th and early 16th century maps and globes in locations ever eastward and southward of India. Although *Patala* appeared in its correct location on the 1507 world map of Martin Waldseemueller, almost all other cartographers of his time were misled by a mistake made by Roger Bacon in *Opus Majus* (1278) of locating it to the south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Bacon had been followed in this by Pierre d'Ailly in his authoritative *Ymago Mundi* (written between 1410 and 1419 and published in Louvain in 1483). The Region of Patala appeared in this location on the map of the world in Antoine de La Salle's *La Salade*, 1444, and on Martin Behaim's 1492 globe. The Moluccas islands were reached by Antonio Abreu in a voyage to from Malacca in 1511-1514, and by Ferdinand Magellan's expedition of 1519-1522 which sailed there across the Pacific; these voyages demonstrated that the Region of Patala was not a southward extension of the Asian continent by sailing straight across where it was supposed to be. Thereupon, cosmographers like Oronce Fine kept it in its trans-Capricornian location, but on the other side of the Ocean as a promontory of the *Terra Australis*.

As for Cristóvão de Mendonça, it is true that the historian João de Barros says that when he arrived at Goa in 1519, he was given instructions to search for the legendary Isles of Gold, said to lie to "beyond Sumatra". But Barros also relates how Mendonça was diverted from the quest by the requirement to assist with the building and defence of a fort at Pedir in Aceh (Sumatra), after which he went to Malacca. There is no record of his having resumed his search for Isles of Gold. If he had, he would have searched for them "beyond Sumatra" in the vicinity of Zipangu (Japan) where they were located on the globe of Martin Behaim, the geographical adviser to the King of Portugal. An expedition was sent to find them in this location in 1587, under the command of Pedro de Unamunu.

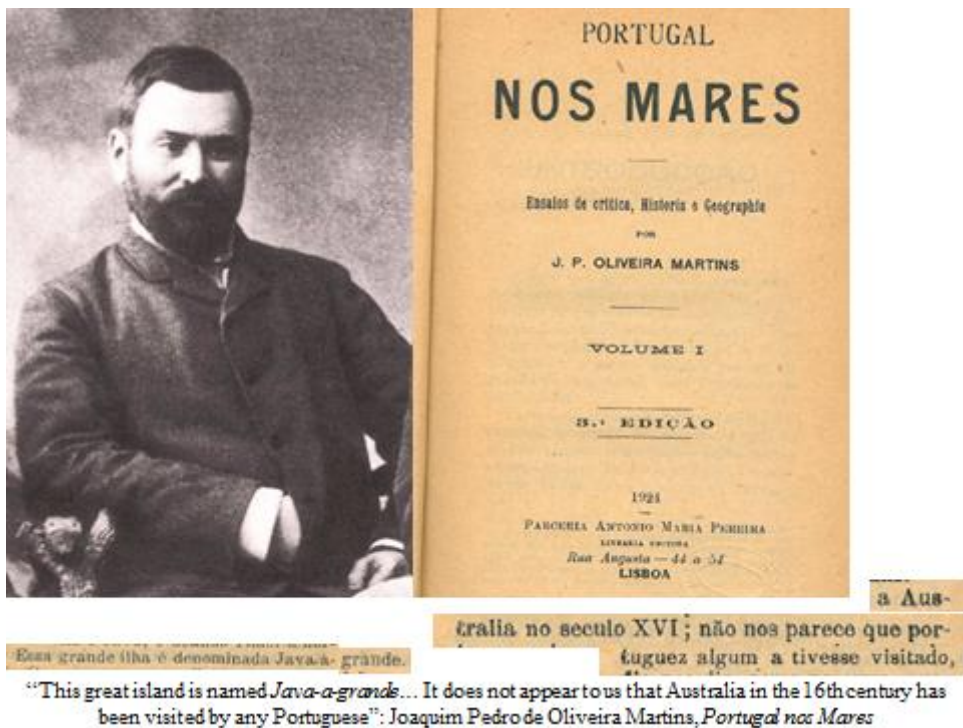
The Dieppe cartographer Guillaume Le Testu inscribed a note against his map of *La grant IAVE*. in his atlas, *Cosmographie Universelle* (1555), which said: "This Land is part of the so-called Terra Australis, to us Unknown, so that

which is marked herein is only from Imagination and uncertain opinion; for some say that La grant Jave [Java Major] which is the eastern Coast of it is the same land of which its western Coast forms the Strait of Magellan, and that all of this land is joined together". Like all good works of fiction, the Dieppe maps are imaginative constructions based on an amalgamation of factual elements. In this case the basic factual framework is provided by the world map of Oronce Fine and the globe of Johann Schoener.

Discovery Day, 10 November 2013. Transcript by Andrew Eliason.

4. Robert J King: *JAVE LA GRANDE, A PART OF TERRA AUSTRALIS?*

Just to make sure make clear where I stand — I stand with the Portuguese maritime historian Joaquim Pedro de Oliveira Martins, who made a study of the *Jave la Grande* maps when they became prominent in the late nineteenth century and referred to the great island of *Java la Grande* and said: “it does not appear to us that Australian in the sixteenth century has been visited by any Portuguese — (a Australia no seculo XVI não nos parece que portugez algum a tivesse visitado)”. I agree with Joaquim Pedro de Oliveira Martins.



[Slide 1. Joaquim Pedro de Oliveira Martins, *Portugal nos Mmares: Eensaios de Critica, Historia e Ggeographia*, Lisboa, Parceria Antonio Maria Pereira, 1924. “This great island is named *Java-a-grande*... It does not appear to us that Australia in the 16th century has been visited by any Portuguese”.]

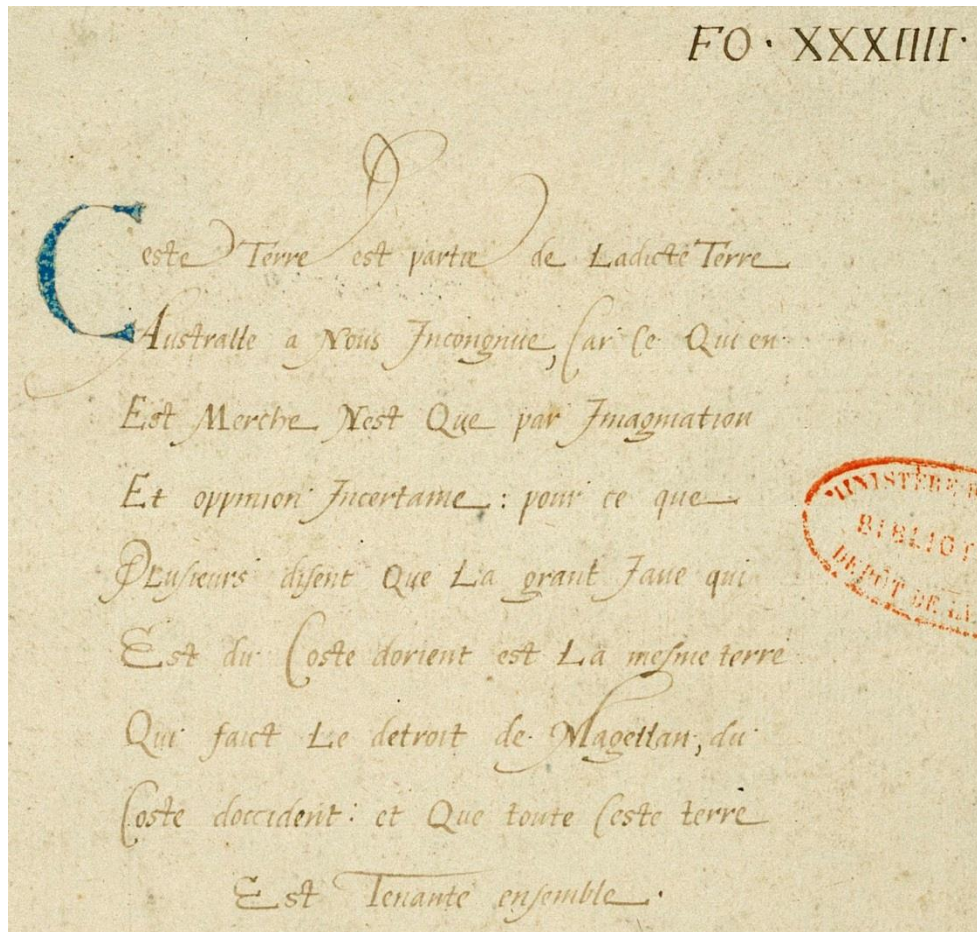
So what do they stand for? Here is one of the Dieppe maps. This is by Le Testu (1556), and you can see *Jave la Grande*, which he calls *Grande Jave*, and it's part of the *Terre Australle* — part of the *Terra Australis*



Le Testu, 1556: *Petite Jave*, and *Grande Jave* a part of the *terre australle*.

[Slide 2. Le Testu, 1556: *Petite Jave*, and *Grande Jave* a part of the *terre australle*.]

But what does Le Testu say about this? Against most of his maps he has written notes explaining them. So what does he say about *Jave la Grande*? Here's his note. He says it is simply made from imagination. He says: "this land is part of the so called *Terra Australis*, to us unknown, so that that which is marked herein is only from imagination and uncertain opinion. Some say that la Grande Jave [Java Major], which is the eastern coast of the same land of which its western coast forms the Strait of Magellan and that all this land is joined together".



[Slide 3. Guillaume Le Testu, *Cosmographie Universelle*, 1555, fol.34. *Ceste Terre est partie de la dicte Terre Australle a Nous Incongnue, car ce qui en este merche nest que par Imagination et oppinion incertaine: pour ce que plusieurs disent que La grant Jave qui este du Coste dorient est la mesme terre qui faict le destroit de Magellan, du Coste doccident : et que toute ceste terre est tenante ensemble.*]

That was 1556. Le Testu is not the first of the Dieppe map makers, so I suppose he can be considered to speak for his predecessors as well as himself.

Here is his entire world map and, as you can see, *Grande Jave* is a part of the *Terre Australle*, the great circum-antarctic continent. And over here is *Locach*. I'll come back to that shortly.



Le Testu, *Cosmographie Universelle*, 1556,
terre australle

[Slide 4. Le Testu, *Cosmographie Universelle*, 1556 : *terre australle*.]

Here is another Dieppe map. this one is from 1543 and this one was by Guillaume Brouscon. That's not Australia, it is South America. This is the feature we're looking at. This is the feature that often is referred to as *Jave la Grande*.



Guillaume Brouscon, World Chart, 1543

[Slide 4. Guillaume Brouscon, World Chart, 1543.]

Let's have a closer look at it. It's definitely part of the *Terre Australle* which is labelled there, but look it's called something else, not *Jave la Grande* — it's the land of *lucac*, and there's *Jave la Grande* up there separated by a narrow channel or strait.



La Jave grande and terre de Lucac, Brouscon, 1543

[Slide 6. *La Jave grande and terre de Lucac, Brouscon, 1543.*]

There it is on a slightly bigger scale. So is it *Jave la Grande*, or is it the land of *lucac*? And what was the land of *lucac*?



Brouscon, *terre de Lucac*, 1543

[Slide 7. Brouscon, *terre de Lucac*, 1543]

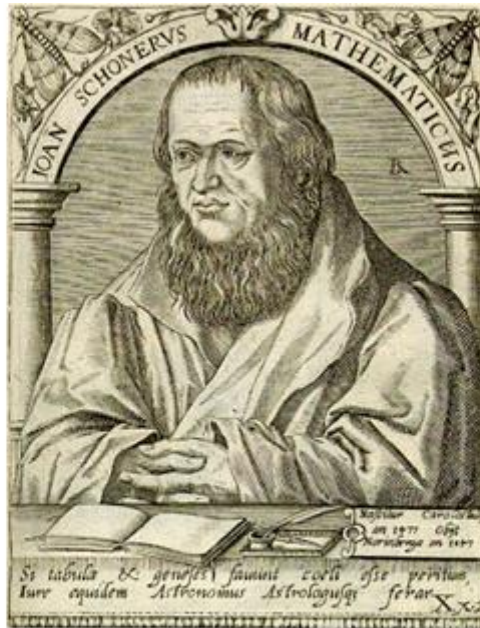
I argue that *Jave la Grande* or the Land of Locach on the Dieppe maps comes from this original map of 1523 by the German globe maker, Johann Schoener, and it comes from this feature which is part of the *Terra Australis*, and it's called on this map the Region of Patala, *Regio Patalis* — part of *Terra Australis* .



REGIO PATALIS
part of the *Terra Australis*. Schoener Globe , 1523

[Slide 8. *REGIO PATALIS*, part of the *Terra Australis*. Schoener Globe , 1523]

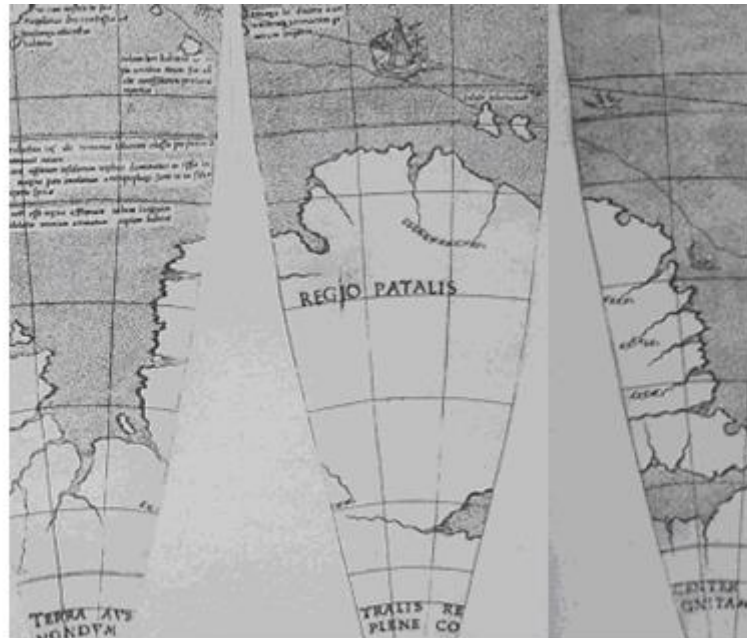
This is Johann Schoener. He lived in Nuremberg, which in those days was a crossroads of Europe and the centre of knowledge about the world and map making.



Johann Schoener

[Slide 9. Portrait of Johann Schoener.]

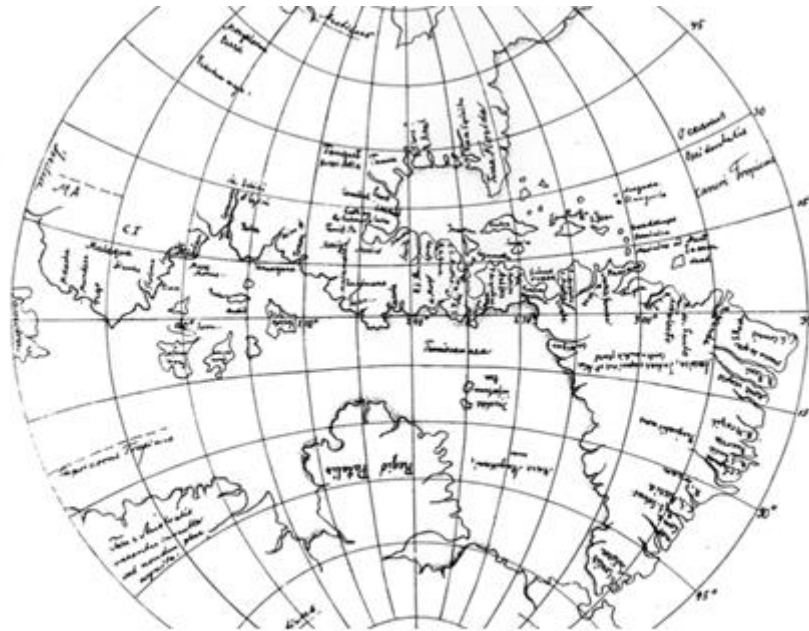
Here's a closer look, and as you can see his *Regio Patalis*, Region of Patala, is actually part of a southern continent labelled *Terra australis recenter inventa at nondum plene cognita*, which means "terra australis recently discovered but not yet fully known". Recently discovered by whom? By Magellan, of course. And there's Magellan's ship.



REGIO PATALIS part of the TERRA AUSTRALIS RECENTER INVENTA AT NONDUM PLENE COGNITA
(TERRA AUSTRALIS, RECENTLY DISCOVERED BUT NOT YET FULLY KNOWN)
Schöner Globe, 1523 (gores).

[Slide 10. *REGIO PATALIS*, part of the *TERRA AUSTRALIS RECENTER INVENTA AT NONDUM PLENE COGNITA* (Terra Australis, recently discovered but not yet fully known). Schöner Globe, 1523 (gores).]

Here's another view of it. It's again one of these maps which is orientated towards the south, so the writing is upside down, but here's the inscription related to *Terra Australis*, that's the right side up and it simply says *Terra australis recenter inventa sed nondum plene cognita*. And we'll come back again and again to this inscription, this description, of the southern continent. And as you can see, America on this map is joined to Asia.



REGIO PATALIS part of the Terra Australis. Schoener Globe , 1533
Terra Australis recenter inventa sed nondum plene cognita (Terra Australis, recently discovered but not yet fully known)

[Slide 11. *REGIO PATALIS* part of the Terra Australis. Schoener Globe , 1533. *Terra Australis recenter inventa sed nondum plene cognita* (Terra Australis, recently discovered but not yet fully known).

In fact we'll flip it upside down so we can read it *Regio Patalis*. There is also an interesting inscription over here on America which says, *America, Indiae superioris et Asiae continentis pars* (America part of India Superior and of the Asian continent). So in other words he believed that America was a huge peninsula of the Asian continent going south.



REGIO PATALIS part of the Terra Australis. Schoener Globe , 1533
America, Indiae superioris et Asiae continentis pars(America, a part of India Superior and of the Asian continent)

[Slide 12. *REGIO PATALIS* part of the Terra Australis. Schoener Globe , 1533. *America, Indiae superioris et Asiae continentis pars* (America, a part of India Superior and of the Asian continent)]

Now how did Schoener, a German cosmographer and map maker, how did his ideas get onto the Dieppe maps? Well through this man Oronce Fine, the Premier Professeur du Roy des Mathématiques — the King's Premier Professor of Mathematics — the French king that is — and Cosmographer.



Oronce Fine,
Premier Professeur du Roy des Mathématiques

[Slide 13. Portrait of Oronce Fine, Premier Professeur du Roy des Mathématiques]

Oronce Fine made this world map which was completed in 1531, published in 1532, in that book that Professor Richardson referred to, and here again you see that Region of Patalis. It's part of the southern continent which bears exactly the same inscription as on Schoener's map: "Part of the *Terra Australis* recently discovered but not yet fully known": *Terra australis recenter inventa sed nondum cognita*.



REGIO PATALIS, part of the Terra Australis.
Oronce Fine, 1531.

[Slide 14. *REGIO PATALIS*, part of the Terra Australis. Oronce Fine, 1531.

I argue the Dieppe maps' *Jave la Grande*, or *Locach* as it's called in at least a couple of cases, is this feature.



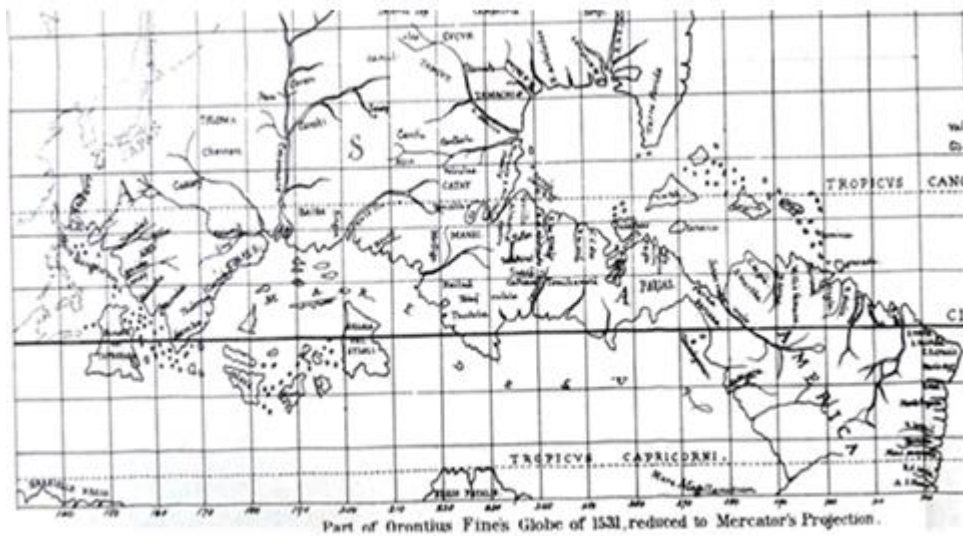
REGIO PATALIS, part of the Terra Australis.
Oronce Fine, 1531

[Slide 15. *REGIO PATALIS*, part of the “Terra Australis, recently discovered but not yet fully known”. Oronce Fine, 1531]



REGIO PATALIS,
part of the “*Terra Australis*, recently discovered but not yet fully known”. Oronce Fine, 1531

This is Fine's map on a more familiar projection. There's his *Regio Patalis* peeping up from the bottom there. This is according to Mercator's projection.



REGIO PATALIS
On part of Oronce Fine's Chart 1531,
reduced to Mercator's Projection

[Slide 16. *REGIO PATALIS* on part of Oronce Fine's Chart, 1531, reduced to Mercator's Projection]

And again you can see Fine's map is similar to Schoener's map: this is Schoener's map.



REGIO PATALIS
part of the *Terra Australis*. Schoener Globe , 1533

[Slide 17. *REGIO PATALIS*, part of the *Terra Australis*. Schoener Globe , 1533]

And this is a photograph of the gores of Schoener's globe of 1523.



REGIO PATALIS
part of the *Terra Australis*. Schoener Globe , 1523

[Slide 18. *REGIO PATALIS* part of the Terra Australis. Schoener Globe , 1523]

Here's the next map by Fine, of 1534, and *Regio Patalis* is still on it.



Oronce Fine, 1534

[Slide 19. Oronce Fine, world map of 1534]

It's a huge peninsula of the southern continent, still bearing that same inscription, *Terra australis nuper inventa sed nondum plene examinata*. A slight variation in the wording.



REGIO PATALIS
TERRA AUSTRALIS NVPER INVENTA SED NON DVM PLENE EXAMINATA
Oronce Fine, 1534

[Slide 20. *REGIO PATALIS. TERRA AUSTRALIS NVPER INVENTA SED NON DVM PLENE EXAMINATA*. Oronce Fine, 1534].

We can see that the *Regio Patalis* was transformed into *Jave la Grande* by looking at the map by Abraham Ortelius. This is a version or a copy of Ortelius' map of 1564 by Jode in 1578, and again here's the huge southern continent, *Terra Australis*, and here's the promontory or peninsular of it, rising up toward New Guinea in this case.



Gerard De Jode, *Universi Orbis seu Terreni Globi*, 1578
copy on one sheet of Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564

[Slide 21. Gerard De Jode, *Universi Orbis seu Terreni Globi*, 1578. Copy on one sheet of Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564]

Here's Ortelius' original map of 1564.

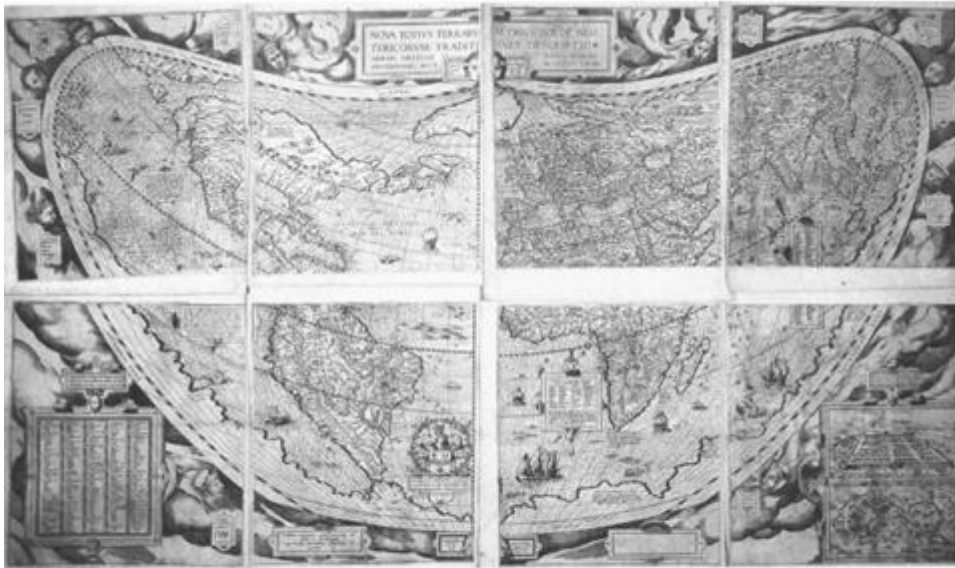
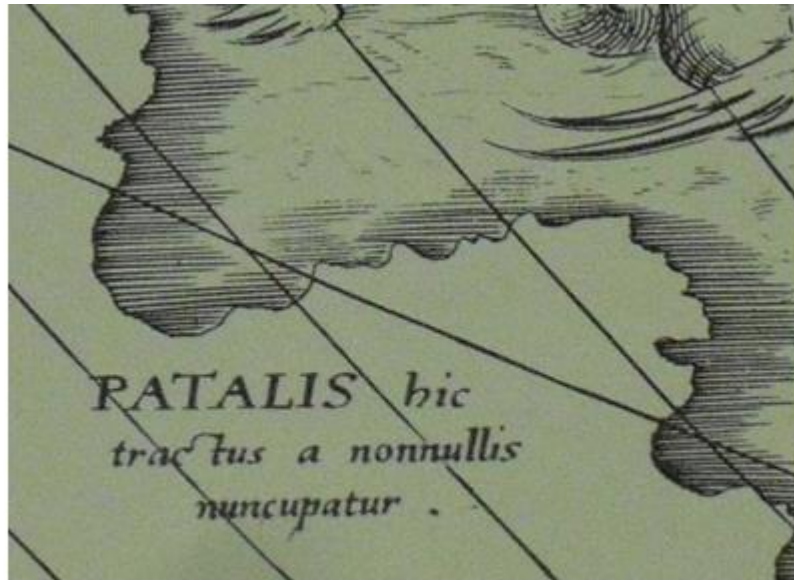


Fig. 3. Abraham Ortelius's eight-sheet map of the world on a coniform projection (1564). Entitled *Novae Totius Terrarum Orbis Tabula Nova Terrarum Tabulae Descriptio*, the map was printed in Antwerp by Gerard de Jode. (Courtesy of The British Library. Maps C.2.c.1.)

Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564

[Slide 22. Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564]

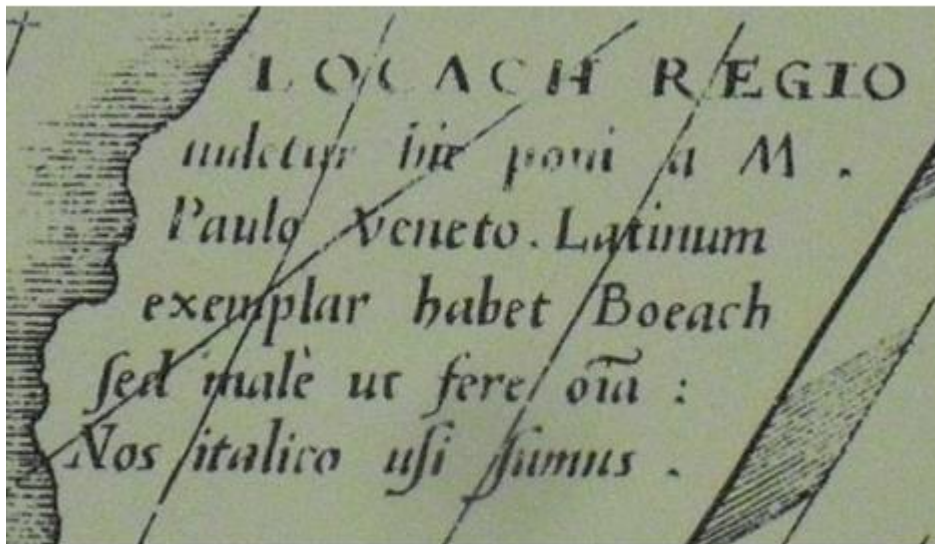
This map bears a couple of very interesting inscriptions. Here it is labelled *Patalis* and over here it's labelled *Locach*: “Patalis: this tract called by some the Regio Patalis”.



PATALIS hic tractus a nonnullis nuncupatur
"This tract called by some [Regio] Patalis"
Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564

[Slide 23. *PATALIS hic tractus a nonnullis nuncupatur* (“This tract called by some [Regio] Patalis”). Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564]

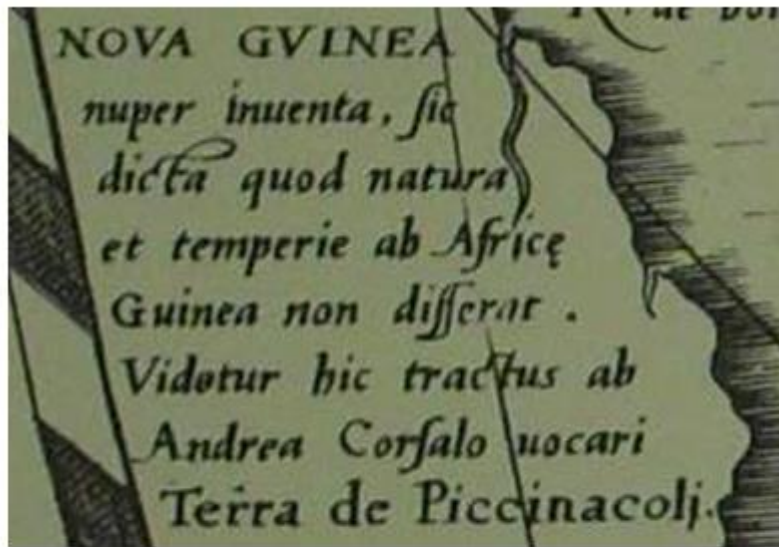
And again, “the Region of Locach apparently placed here by Marco Polo the Venetian. The Latin version calls it Beach”. *Beach* was a corruption of the name.



LOCACH REGIO videtur hic poni a M. Paulo Veneto. Latinum exemplar habet Boeach sed male ut fere omnia. Nos italico usi sumus.
 Region of **Locach**, apparently placed here by Marco Polo the Venetian. A Latin version calls it **Boeach**, but rather, as almost everywhere, we have used the Italian [original version].
 Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564

[Slide 24. *LOCACH REGIO videtur hic poni a M. Paulo Veneto. Latinum exemplar habet Boeach sed male ut fere omnia. Nos italico usi sumus.* (Region of Locach, apparently placed here by Marco Polo the Venetian. A Latin version calls it Boeach, but rather, as almost everywhere, we have used the Italian [original version]). Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564].

That's the inscription at the top, on New Guinea.



NOVA GUINEA nuper inuenta, sic dicta quod natura et temperie ab Africem Guinea non differat. Videtur hic tractus ab Andrea Corsalo uocari Terra de Piccinacoli.
New Guinea, recently discovered, so called because its nature and climate do not differ from the African Guinea.
Apparently this tract was called by Andrea Corsali the Land of Pygmies.
Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564

[Slide 25. *NOVA GUINEA nuper inuenta, sic dicta quod natura et temperie ab Africem Guinea non differat. Videtur hic tractus ab Andrea Corsalo uocari Terra de Piccinacoli* (New Guinea, recently discovered, so called because its nature and climate do not differ from the African Guinea. Apparently this tract was called by Andrea Corsali the Land of Pygmies). Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564]

And here I've wrapped the two ends together here, so you can see here's the *Locach* label, and here's the *Patalis* label. They're all part of this huge peninsular leading up to New Guinea. This peninsula is what became either the *Jave la Grande*, or *Locach*.



[Slide 26. Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1564]

Here's Fine's map of 1534 again, and you can see the similarity of this huge peninsula rising up here it's called the *Regio Patalis* . There is no *Locach* here.



REGIO PATALIS
TERRA AUSTRALIS NVPER INVENTA SED NON DVM PLENE EXAMINATA
(Terra Australia recently discovered but not yet fully examined)
Oronce Fine, 1534

[Slide 27. *REGIO PATALIS TERRA AUSTRALIS NVPER INVENTA SED NON DVM PLENE EXAMINATA* (Terra Australia recently discovered but not yet fully examined). Oronce Fine, 1534]

Back to Le Testu's map of 1556: you can see the similarity of this huge peninsula rising up from the southern continent, called in French, *Terre Australle*.



Le Testu, 1556: *Grande Jave* and *La Joncade* (Locach) as parts of the *terre australle*

[Slide 28. Le Testu, 1556: *Grande Jave* and *La Joncade* (Locach) as parts of the *terre australle*]

And over here this is his *Locach*, which in another corruption of the word comes out as *Joncade* in his Norman French.



Le Testu, 1556: *La Joncade* (Locach), a part of the *terre australle*

[Slide 29. Le Testu, 1556: *La Joncade* (Locach), a part of the *terre australle*]

Here's another of the Dieppe maps, this one by Pierre Desceliers, of 1546, and again you see *Java la Grande* or *Regio Patalis*, and along the bottom there's this same inscription: "*Terre Australle* recently discovered but not yet fully known".



Pierre Desceliers, mappemonde, 1546: *Java La Grande*, part of *LA TERRE AVSTRALLE NON DV TOVT DECOUVERTE*
"*Terra Australis*, recently discovered but not yet fully known".
REGIO PATALIS evolved into *JAVE LA GRANDE*. Desceliers, 1546

[Slide 30. Pierre Desceliers, mappemonde, 1546: *Java La Grande*, part of *LA TERRE AVSTRALLE NON DV TOVT DECOUVERTE* ("Terra Australis, recently discovered but not yet fully known"). *REGIO PATALIS* evolved into *JAVE LA GRANDE*.]

Here's another version of the same map. You can probably read the inscription down the bottom there. And again you can see how similar it is, for the inscription is virtually the same as that on Fine's map of 1531: *Terra australis recenter inventa sed nondum plene cognita*.



Pierre Desceliers, 1546



[Slide 31. Desceliers, 1546] and [Slide 1. *REGIO PATALIS*, part of the “Terra Australis, recently discovered but not yet fully known”. Oronce Fine, 1531].

This the famous Harleian map which started the controversy all those years ago. Here's *Jave la Grande*, and here's the *Terre Australle* and down there [beyond the borders of the map] presumably is the rest of the southern continent, *Terra Australis*.



Harleian Mappemonde, mid-1540s
LA TERRE AVSTRALLE and *IAVE LA GRANDE*



[Slide 32. Harleian Mappemonde, mid-1540s. *LA TERRE AVSTRALLE* and *IAVE LA GRANDE*].

That's the *Jave la Grande* part, and as you can see, it's separated from Java proper by this channel or strait. Presumably to let Magellan's ship through, which happened after Magellan's death under Juan de Elcano, which happened during the circumnavigation voyage of 1520 to 1522.



IAVE LA GRANDE (Java Major), Harleian, mid-1540s

[Slide 33. *IAVE LA GRANDE* (Java Major), Harleian, mid-1540s],

Here is another Dieppe map: the same arrangement, again orientated toward the south. *Jave la Grande* here is part of the *Terra Australis*.



JAVA LA GRANDE, Nicolas Desliens, 1566

[Slide 34. *JAVA LA GRANDE*. Nicolas Desliens, 1566].

Here is the full map. *Jave la Grande*, with a little bit of the *Terre Australle*, the *Tierra del Fuego*, over there. They're all very similar.



Nicolas Desliens, mappemonde, 1566

[Slide 35. Nicolas Desliens, mappemonde, 1566].

Here is another Dieppe map. This one is from about 1555, and on this one the feature is completely unnamed; *Java la Grande* is confined to Java proper. Again, it is separated from the rest of it by a narrow hypothetical channel or strait, because they knew that Java was not actually joined to the South Land.



Java La grãde, separated from the promontory of Terra Australis Desceliers (?), *Morgan atlas*, 1555 (?)

[Slide 36. *Java La grãde*, separated from the promontory of Terra Australis Desceliers (?), *Morgan Atlas*, 1555 (?)]

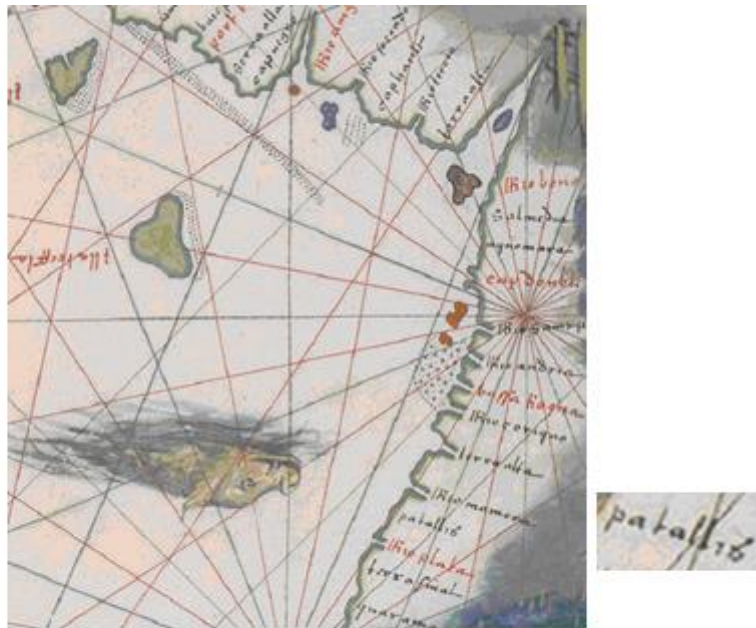
Here is the famous Vallard chart of what is called *Terra Java*, mentioned by Peter Trickett, and here Patalis is actually marked on the southwest as one of the inscriptions: that one there above the red lettering.



Terra Java in the *Vallard Atlas* (1547); *patallis* is marked on the southwest part of the continent.

[Slide 37. *Terra Java* in the *Vallard Atlas* (1547); *patallis* is marked on the southwest part of the continent.]

Let's have a close look at it. It's spelled *patallis*, and there it is, there, which to me, at least, indicates that this map maker was conscious that his notional *Terra Java* was actually derived from the *Regio Patalis*.



patallis on *Grand Java* in the Vallard Atlas

[Slide 38. *patallis* on *Grand Java* in the Vallard Atlas].

This map is from 1570. Again, the same arrangement of the southern continents. And there is an inscription describing it up here.



Carte cosmographique ou Universelle description du monde
Jean Cossin, Dieppe, 1570.

[Slide 39. *Carte cosmographique ou Universelle description du monde*. Jean Cossin, Dieppe, 1570.]

Let's have a closer look. Again what we have: the land of Locach: *terre de lucac*, and over here a variation to the same inscription: *Terre incongne merionalle decouuerte nouvellemen* ("the unknown South Land recently discovered"). That was by Jean Cossin 1570.



Terre de lucac

*Terre incongne
merionalle decouuerte nouvellemen*
[unknown south Land, newly discovered]

CARTE COSMOGRAPHIQUE OU UNIVERSELLE DESCRIPTION DU MONDE
JEAN COSSIN, DIEPPE, 1570

[Slide 40. *Terre de lucac. Terre incongne merionalle decouuerte nouvellemen* [unknown south Land, newly discovered] *Carte Cosmographique ou Universelle Description du Monde. Jean Cossin, Dieppe, 1570*].

And finally, one more map, from 1583; what may be considered the last of the Dieppe maps. Again, the same configuration, this time two peninsulas rising up, one toward New Guinea, one toward Java there, and this is actually the land of *Beac* and the land of *Locac*.



Globe terrestre de Jacques Vau de Claye (1583).

[Slide 41. *Globe terrestre de Jacques Vau de Claye* (1583).]

A closer look, it is a bit faded, but you might just be able to make out *Terre de Beac* or *Locac*.



Terre de Beac, Locac, Terre Australe. Jacques Vau de Claye (1583).

[Slide 42. *Terre de Beac, Locac, Terre Australe*. Jacques Vau de Claye (1583).]

So where did Java Major or *la Grande Jave* come from? As Professor Richardson has explained, it came from Marco Polo's *Travels*, and this is the book where this mistake was made.



Marco Polo, c.1254 –1324
describes *Java Major* and *Java Minor* in his *Travels*

[Slide 43. Portrait of Marco Polo, c.1254–1324, who describes *Java Major* and *Java Minor* in his *Travels*]

De provincia Ciamba.

Cap. IX.

SOLVENTES à portu Zarten, & nauigantes uersus Garbinium perueniunt ad prouinciam Ciamba, quæ mille & quinquaginta miliaribus distat ab eo portu: & est magna ualde, abundans opibus, idola colens, atq; propriam habens linguã. Anno incarnationis dominicæ M CCLXVIII misit magnus Cham ducentam quendam Sogatu nomine cum ualido exercitu, ut prouinciam illam sibi subieget. Sed cum in prouinciam uenisset, uidit ciuitates adeo munitas, & castra tam fortia esse, ut nulla ui illa posset expugnare. Combussit tamen uillas, & incidit arbores, tantique prouinciæ intulit damna, ut rex eius libens magno Cham tributarius fieret, modo dux ille ex prouinciâ recederet. Inierunt autem foedus tale, ut rex Ciamba annuatim uiginti pulcherrimos elephantos pro tributo magno penderet Cham. Et ego Marcus fui in hac prouinciâ, cuius rex tunc tantam habuit uxorum multitudinem, ut illi essent nati trecenti & uiginti sex filii atque filie, quorum ceterum quinquaginta iam at ma ferre poterant. In hac regione plurimi sunt elephanti, & lignum alces in ea abundant. Inueniuntur etiam ibi nemora de lignis ebanis.

De insula Iaua.

Cap. X.

RELICTA prouinciâ Ciamba nauigatur uersus meridiem mille & quingentis miliaribus usque ad insulam magnam Iaua nomine, quæ in circuitu suo patet tribus milibus miliarium. Habet regem qui nemini est tributarius. Ibi est maxima copia piperis, nucum muscatorum, spissi galangæ, & ceterorum aromatum. Conueniunt illuc multi negotiatores, nam multa lucrantur ex aliis speciebus. Incolæ insulæ idololatæ sunt: nec potuit magnus Cham hæc tenuis eam fuz subicere ditioni.

De prouinciâ Boeac.

Cap. XI.

NAVIGANDO ab insula Iaua, numerantur septingenta miliaria ad duas insulas, Sondur & Condur dictas, à quibus ultra procedendo inter meridiem & Garbinium, sunt quingenta miliaria ad prouinciam Boeac, quæ amplissima & diuissima est. Regem habet proprium, & propriam linguam. Adorant idola. Producit hæc prouinciâ uros domesticos, magnos ut leones, atq; elephantos habet multos, & aurum copiosum. Vtuntur incolæ pro moneta glebis quibusdam aureis. Pauci sunt qui ex alienis regionibus prouinciam hæc adeant, adeo inhumani sunt habitatores eius.

Book III of Marco Polo's *Travels*

described his journey in 1292 by sea from China to India by way of Champa, Locach and Sumatra (which he called *Java Minor*). After a chapter describing the kingdom of Champa there follows a chapter describing Java, but which he did not visit.

The narrative then resumes, describing the route southward from Champa toward Sumatra, but by a slip of the pen the name "Java Major" was substituted for "Champa" as the point of departure, locating Sumatra 1,300 miles to the south, not of Champa, but of Java.

Due to Marco's point of departure being erroneously given as being from Java rather than, as was actually the case, from Champa, the locations of the places subsequently mentioned, Locach (Cambodia) and Java Minor (Sumatra), were mistakenly displaced far to the south of Java.

De Insula Iaua

Leaving the Province of Champa (*Ciamba*) he sailed one thousand five hundred miles southward to the great island called Java, which in circuit extends (*patet*) three thousand miles around.

Leaving the island of Java, he counted seven hundred miles to the two islands of Sondur and Condur (the Pulo Condor islands), proceeding beyond them to the south-west five hundred miles to the Province of *Boeac* (*Locach*, i.e. Cambodia, or Indo-china) which is very extensive and very wealthy.

[Slide 44. Book III of Marco Polo's *Travels* described his journey in 1292 by sea from China to India by way of Champa, Locach and Sumatra (which he called *Java Minor*). After a chapter describing the kingdom of Champa there follows a chapter describing Java, but which he did not visit. The narrative then resumes, describing the route southward from Champa toward Sumatra, but by a slip of the pen the name "Java Major" was substituted for "Champa" as the point of departure, locating Sumatra 1,300 miles to the south, not of Java, but of Champa. Due to Marco's point of departure being erroneously given as being from Java rather than, as was actually the case, from Champa, the locations of the places subsequently mentioned, *Locach* (Cambodia) and *Java Minor* (Sumatra), were mistakenly displaced far to the south of Java. *De Insula Iaua* Leaving the Province of Champa (*Ciamba*) he sailed one thousand five hundred miles southward to the great island called Java, which in circuit extends (*patet*) three thousand miles around. Leaving the island of Java, he counted seven hundred miles to the two islands of Sondur and Condur (the Pulo Condor islands), proceeding beyond them to the south-west five hundred miles to the Province of *Boeac* (*Locach*, i.e. Cambodia, or Indo-china) which is very extensive and very wealthy.]

There's the chapter describing the province of Champa, which on the coast of Vietnam, then Java is next described, and it's called "the great island of Java". And he actually uses the word *patet* to describe how big Java is.

Beach was a corruption of *Locach*. In the cursive Gothic script the two forms appear similar:

Locach Locach

Locach Boeach

Boeach, or Beach

[Slide 45. *Locach Boeach(Boeach, or Beach)*]. This is how this mistake in transcription, using the script of the time, was made. It could easily have come about like that.

Sumatra was called *Java Minor*. Sumatra in those days (now Aceh), was just one kingdom among seven in Java Minor.

De insula quæ Iaua minor uocatur. Cap. XIII.
V L T R A insulam Petan, per Sirochum nauigando, est Iaua minor, centum distans miliaribus à Petan; & hæc in circuitu continere dicitur circiter duo milia miliarium. Diuiditur insula in octo regna, habetque linguam propriam. Producit etiam uaria aromata, qualia in his nostris partibus nunquam uisunt. Incole eius idola colunt. Protenditur hæc insula intantum ad Austrum, ut polus Arcticus, & stellas eius minime uideri possint. Ego Marcus fui in hac insula, infrausque sex eius regna, nempe regnum Ferlech, Balsan, Samara, Dragonis, Lambri & Fanfur. In alijs uero duobus non fui.

Book III of Marco Polo's
Travels

*De insula quæ Iaua minor
uocatur*

(Of the island called Java
Minor)

Sumatra

[Slide 47. Book III of Marco Polo's *Travels*, *De insula quæ Iaua minor uocatur* (Of the island called Java Minor) Sumatra].

This man is Ludovico di Varthema He went to Java in 1505 and said, *Java prope in immensum patet* (“extends almost beyond measure”). The adjective from *patere*, “to extend”, is *patalis*, “widespread”. So Ludovico’s Java Patalis could easily be identified by Schoener and Fine with the *Regio Patalis*.



Caput, XXVIII. De insula Giava:
ea prope in immensum patet.

Ludovico di Varthema made a voyage to Java in 1505.
He said Java, “*prope in immensum patet* (extends almost beyond measure)”.
The adjective from *patere*, “to extend”, is *patalis* - “wide-spreading”.

Ludovico's "Java patalis" could then easily have been identified with Fine's *Regio patalis*.

[Slide 48. Portrait of Ludovico di Varthema, who made a voyage to Java in 1505.]

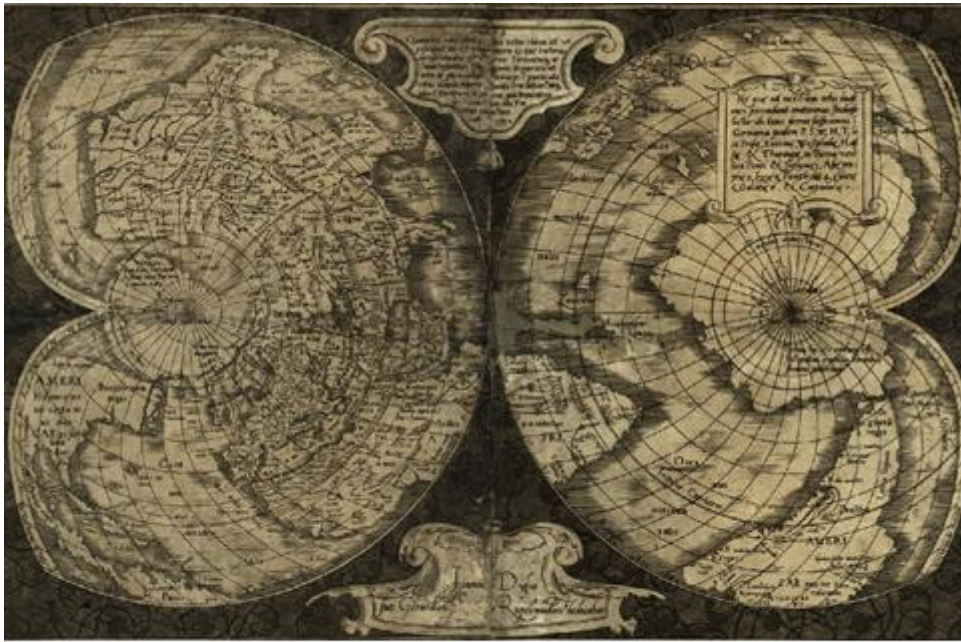
Gerard Mercator copied Fine's map.



Gerard Mercator:

[Slide 49. Portrait of Gerard Mercator].

and [Slide 50. Mercator's world map of 1538. *Terra hic esse certum est sed quātus quibusque limitibus finitas incertum* (“It is certain that there is a land here, but its size and the limits of its boundaries are uncertain”).]



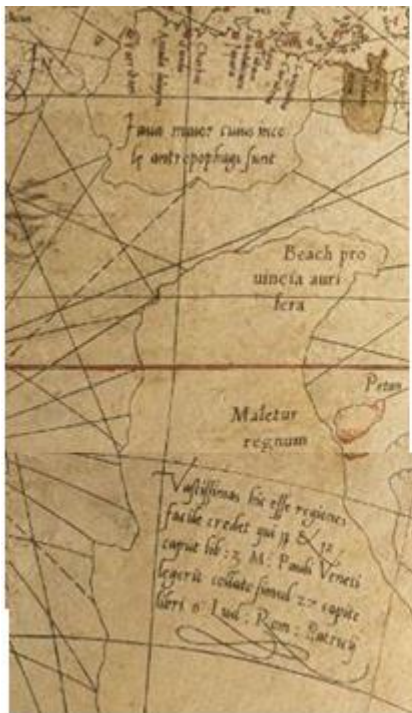
Mercator's world map of 1538
Terra hic esse certum est sed quātus quibusque limitibus finitas incertum (“It is certain that there is a land here, but its size and the limits of its boundaries are uncertain”).



Regio Patalis (?) on Mercator's world map of 1538

[Slide 50. *Regio Patalis* (?) on Mercator's world map of 1538]. He put in the *Regio Patalis* but didn't name it.

Gerard Mercator took the words of Ludovico di Varthema as proof that a huge promontory of the Austral Continent reached northward almost to Java. On his 1541 globe he inscribed over *Terra Australis*: “The great extent of these regions will easily be believed by whoever reads chapters 11 & 12 of book 3 of Marco Polo the Venetian together with chapter 27 of the book of Ludovico the Roman patrician”.]



Gerard Mercator, 1541 globe:

Gerard Mercator took the words of Ludovico di Varthema as proof that a huge promontory of the Austral Continent reached northward almost to Java.

On his 1541 globe he inscribed over *Terra Australis*:

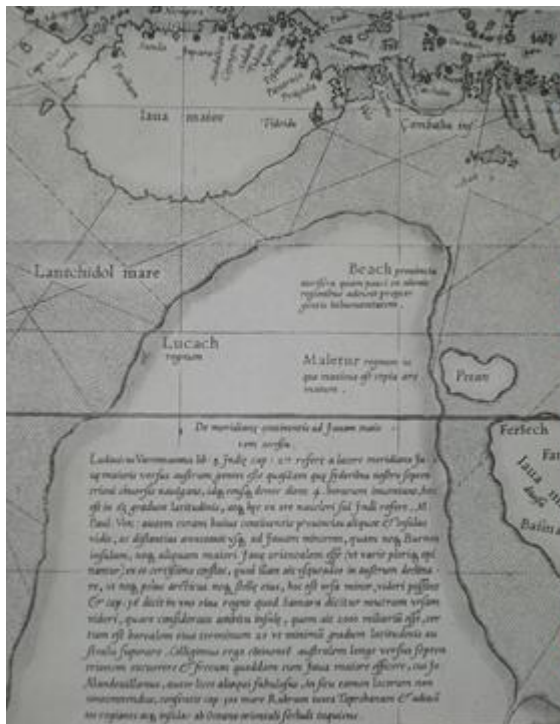
“The great extent of these regions will easily be believed by whoever reads chapters 11 & 12 of book 3 of **Marco Polo** the Venetian together with chapter 27 of the book of **Ludovico** the Roman patrician”.



Gerard Mercator, 1541 globe: *Iaua maior* to the north of *Beach*; *Iaua minor* to its east.

[Slide 51. Gerard Mercator, 1541 globe.

and



Gerard Mercator, 1569:

"Ludovico di Varthema, in Bk.3, on India, Chapt.27, reports that on the southern side of Java Major, to the southward, there are peoples who sail with their backs to our stars of the north until they find a day of but 4 hours, i.e. to the 63rd. degree of latitude... As for Marco Polo, the Venetian, he says that it runs so far to the southward that neither the arctic pole nor its stars may be seen therefrom... therefore, considering the circumference of the island, which he states to be 2000 miles, it is certain that the northern extremity of the Austral continent goes beyond at least the 20th. degree of southern latitude. Thus we conclude, therefrom, that it extends far to the northward and makes, with Java Major, a strait"

Like Oronce Fine and the Dieppoisis cartographers, Mercator believed that Marco Polo's and Ludovico di Varthema's reports on Greater Java indicated that the Southern Continent extended northward almost to it; Mercator identified this extension with Polo's Beach, Lucach and Maletur, whereas Fine had identified it as the Regio Patalis, while the Dieppoisis had combined these last two regions with Greater Java – Jave la Grande.

Nova et Aucta Orbis Terrae Descriptio ad Usum Navigantium Emendata, 1569.

De Meridianae Continentis ad Javam Majorem accessu (On the approach from the Southern Continent to Java Major):

[Slide 52. Gerard Mercator, 1569: “Ludovico di Varthema, in Bk.3, on India, Chapt.27, reports that on the southern side of Java Major, to the southward, there are peoples who sail with their backs to our stars of the north until they find a day of but 4 hours, i.e. to the 63rd. degree of latitude... As for Marco Polo, the Venetian, he says that it runs so far to the southward that neither the arctic pole nor its stars may be seen therefrom... therefore, considering the circumference of the island, which he states to be 2000 miles, it is certain that the northern extremity of the Austral continent goes beyond at least the 20th. degree of southern latitude. Thus we conclude, therefrom, that it extends far to the northward and makes, with Java Major, a strait.” Like Oronce Fine and the Dieppoisis cartographers, Mercator believed that Marco Polo’s and Ludovico di Varthema’s reports on Greater Java indicated that the Southern Continent extended northward almost to it; Mercator identified this extension with Polo’s Beach, Lucach and Maletur, whereas Fine had identified it as the Regio Patalis, while the Dieppoisis had combined these last two regions with Greater Java – Jave la Grande. *Nova et Aucta Orbis Terrae Descriptio ad Usum Navigantium Emendata*, 1569. *De Meridianae Continentis ad Javam Majorem accessu* (On the approach from the Southern Continent to Java Major)].



Libro Quarto.

Fol. 93.

querque. E entre outras cousas que el Rey mandava a Diogo Lopez que fizesse aquelle anno, era q̄ na mesma nao com Pedro Eanes enuiaſſe algũa pessoa, de que elle confiſſe eſta ida a descobrir as ilhas do ouro, a traues da ilha C, amatra, de que já a tras eſcreuemos, por lhe muitas pessoas que andarão naquellas partes da India, darem grande eſperança de ſe poderem descobrir. A qual ida Diogo Lopez logo ali deu a Chriſtouão de Mendoça filho de Pero de Mendoça alcaide môr de Mourão: da viagem do qual a diante faremos menção. E

João de Barros, *Decada III da Asia*, Lisbon, 1563 (1628 edn.), lib.V, cap.iii, fol.92-93:

At the end of June of the year 1520, a ship arrived that had departed the Kingdom that year... And among other things that the King ordered Diogo Lopez to do that year, was to send some person in the same ship with Pedro Eanes, to who would be entrusted to go to discover the **Isles of Gold beyond the island of Sumatra**, of which we have already written above, for many persons who had gone to these parts of India had given him great hope that they could be discovered. Diogo Lopez then gave this to do to **Christovão de Mendoça**, the son of Pero Mendoça the lord mayor of Mourão; **of whose voyage we will make mention below.**

Pedir: acharão Raphael Catanho, & Christouão de Mendoça, com os tres nauios do seu descobrimento pera as ilhas do Ouro. O qual quan-

dias que não toi tras elle. Porque como o acabamento da fortaleza aia mifler muito tempo, & Raphael Catanho, Raphael Perestrello, & Christouão de Mendoça ali se auião de prouer, & catregar de pimenta & de outras coufas pera fazerem suas viages, & tambem o tempo não era da monção pera onde cadahum aia de ir, principalmente a de Christouão de Mendoça, que era já palladama-dou a todos que ficassem ali em ajuda & fauor daquella fortaleza, em quanto ella não estaua em estado pera se poder defender. Finalmente,

za. A qual depois que foi posta em estado que bem se podia defender; Christouão de Mendoça & Dinis Fernandez forãose pera Malaca. E

João de Barros, *Decada III da Asia*, Lisbon, 1563 (1628 edn.), lib.V, cap.iii, fol.123:

And there came to the port of Pedir Raphael Catanho and Christouão de Mendoça with his three ships for the discovery of the Isles of Gold...

Antonio de Brito was still commanding there... as the construction of the fortress had taken much time, and Raphael Catanho, Raphael Perestrello, and Christouão de Mendoça had to provision and take on pepper and other things for their voyages, and also as the monsoon season by which they each had to go, principally Christouão de Mendoça, had already passed, they were all ordered to stay there to assist and support the fortress, as it was not yet in a state where it could be defend itself...

After putting the fort in a good state of defence, Christouão de Mendoça and Dinis Fernandez departed fr Malacca.

Further reading:

Joachim Pedro de Oliveira Martins, *Portugal nos Mares: Ensaios de Critica, Historia e Geographia*, Lisboa, Bertrand, 1889 (repr. Parceria Antonio Maria Pereira, 1924), Vol.I, pp.182-242.

Robert J. King, "Havre de Sylla on JAVE la GRANDE", *Terrae Incognitae*, vol.45, no.1, April 2013, pp.30-61. Downloadable at:

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/tin/2013/00000045/00000001/art00004?crawler=true>

and at:

http://www.sochistdisc.org/secure/terrae_incognitae_online.htm?PHPSESSID=bdcc5444a8856ed9ec6e39e8dd198e45

Robert J. King was an officer of the Australian Senate from 1975 to 2002, and served as Secretary of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. He is now an independent researcher at the National Library of Australia with special interest in European expansion into the Pacific, 16th-18th centuries. In 2010 he received the Literary Achievement Award of the Australasian Hydrographic Society for his contributions to maritime history. His most recent work is, *Havre de Sylla on JAVE la GRANDE*.