

Fragments of the “Carta Marina” by Laurentius Fries, 1524

A few fragments of 16th century maps, which had been used as fly-leaves in binding a collection of juridical documents of the 18th century,¹ were discovered recently at the University Library of Leiden during the examination of various bindings.

S. J. Fockema Andreeae, at whose disposal the Library put these fragments for a study, states that they constitute parts of hitherto unknown maps printed ca. 1520; one of the fragments resembles the map “*Tabula Terra Nova*” in the Strassburg edition of Ptolemy and seems to be influenced by Portuguese discoveries (this is suggested by the presence of a Portuguese flag on the coast of Brazil). The last-mentioned fragment embraces, however, only a part of the coast Sinus Hespericus—Brazil and Western Africa—of the Green Cape Island.²

Two of the fragments, forming part of a map of the Eastern Netherlands, attracted the attention of B. van ’t Hoff, who has undertaken a study of them.³

The fourth fragment, representing a part of a map of Africa comprising Ethiopia, is the subject of the present study.

Fockema Andreeae’s statement to the effect that this fragment bears some resemblance with the map in the Strassburg Ptolemy, published with the participation of Philesius and Waldseemüller in 1513,⁴ suggested to me the idea of consulting Waldseemüller’s “*Carta Marina*” of 1516. A comparison of the two maps revealed a close relationship between them. The next step was to compare the fragment with Laurentius Frisius’ map,⁵ published by Grieninger, also Waldseemüller’s publisher. This comparison clearly shows that both Fockema Andreeae’s fragment and mine doubtless constitute parts of Laurentius Frisius’ map, which was first published in 1525⁶ and subsequently in 1527 and 1530. However, only the third of the editions has reached us and even this is extant only in one example, formerly preserved in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich.

As for the fragments of B. van ’t Hoff, they obviously belong to some quite different map. This is clearly proved by a comparison with the facsimile edition of L. Frisius or Waldseemüller’s maps⁷ referred to above.

Having thus established L. Frisius’ authorship of the fragments of the map of Africa, I must remark, however, that they are not identical with the map preserved at Munich nor do they derive from the 1530 edition. Fockema Andreeae dates the fragments “circa 1520”, but he might have precised it as 1522. Apparently he failed to observe the watermark of his fragment—a leaping stag with a flower in his collar.⁸ I found no watermarks on any of the other fragments.

When exactly Grieninger charged L. Frisius with preparing a new edition of Waldseemüller’s map is unknown, but in 1524 Frisius mentions in a letter to Grieninger that the map is under work. It was completed in 1525, and this year may be accepted as the date of its issue, because the description of it “*Yslegung der Mercartthen oder Carta Marina*” by the same author is provided with this date, although the 1st edition of the map proper has not survived. The author states that this is a somewhat abridged edition in German translation; a 2nd edition of “*Yslegung*” appeared in 1527, and in 1530 was

issued a Latin version of the same work, abridged by N. Prugner and entitled “*Hydrographicae... descriptio*”.

Our fragments are thus probably proof-impressions of Frisius’ map, because they do not contain any reference to the German translation and maintain throughout Latin for the few and insignificant legends, while for the larger legends there are only frames, which, in the 1530 edition are filled up with German text. However, in the fragment comprising Ethiopia even the frame for the legend to be written west of the picture of a rhinoceros is lacking. On the whole, a thorough comparison of the fragments with the Facsimile at Munich reveals that our fragments are less worn, they are also cleaner and have evidently undergone a slight retouching at a later date.

Although Frisius mentions that this was to be a German edition, I permit myself to presume that also a Latin edition was simultaneously prepared. This is suggested by the fact that all the names—of countries, animals, etc.—found on the fragments are still given in Latin and the frames for the legends are empty. Evidently they were to be completed later either by Latin or German text.

This is not the first time I observe that maps have been completed in punch, for which empty spaces or even special frames to be filled up at a later date were prepared in the plate.

I can state in conclusion that the material these fragments contain is quite identical with that of Waldseemüller’s map. Only in a few cases a small detail is omitted or a small drawing (of the type of those prepared by Grieninger for the special Cosmography compiled by Waldseemüller) is added.

In the left-hand bottom corner of L. Frisius’ map there is a frame containing some German text describing the way people, who are to die, are slaughtered, cut into pieces, fried on spits and eaten. Similar descriptions persevered for a long time in various maps of South America. Our fragments do not yet contain any such frame or text, but the original map already contains them.

In order to elucidate my considerations exposed above, I reproduce herewith the respective section of the map at Munich and the two fragments of the map of Africa.

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NOTES

¹ *Bibl. Acad. Lugd.-Bat. Catalogus*, XIV (1932), p. 120, (BPL248).

² See S. J. Fockema Andreeae, “*Onbekende kaarten uit circa 1520*”, *Tijdschrift Kon. Nederl. Aardrk. Genootsch.*, LXXIII (1956), pp. 205-206 with a reproduction of this fragment.

³ To be published in one of the next volumes of *Imago Mundi*.

⁴ See L. Bagrow, *Die Geschichte der Kartographie*, p. 360.

⁵ See A. Ortelii *catalogus cartographorum*, bearbeitet von L. Bagrow. *Ergänz.-Heft zu Peterm. Mitt.*, no. 199, I (1928), p. 73.

⁶ A nearly full-size reproduction of this example was published in 1926 by the bookseller Ludwig Rosenthal, Munich.

⁷ J. Fischer u. R. v. Wieser, *Die älteste Karte mit dem Namen America aus dem Jahre 1507 und die Carta*

Marina aus dem Jahre 1516 von M. Waldseemüller (Iiacomilus) (Innsbruck, 1903).

⁸ C. M. Briquet, *Les Filigranes*, I (Paris, 1907), no. 3319, in the Actes Bruges 1522.

Some Notes From the Tall Tree Library

THE TWO STATES OF THE ZALTIERI NORTH AMERICA

Among questions that periodically arise among map collectors is the query "What foundation exists for stating that the map of North America by Bolognino Zaltieri without date (Tooley 81)¹ is earlier than the dated state of this same map (Tooley 80)?"² Scepticism apparently stems from the knowledge that it was not unusual to erase a date from a plate and continue publishing a print *sine anno*.

Some years ago the writer settled this question to his own satisfaction and it seems worth-while to make the facts more generally known. We shall confine ourselves to a single argument because this one point renders superfluous several other arguments that bear out our findings. Examination of the map discloses several fine hair lines extending vertically through the title tablet. These lines are scratches commonly encountered in earliest impressions from a new plate; they gradually fade away as the plate is subjected to repeated printings. The particular scratches that we now have in mind are not confined to the area where the title occurs but it is here that our present interest centers. They show in the title tablet both before and after the two lines "Venetijs aeneis formis Bolognini Zalterij/ Anno. M.DLXVI." appear.

Now we arrive at the importance of these scratches. If the undated state came from the plate whence the date lines had been erased, the burnishing would have erased the scratches at least where the two lines occur, namely, in the last two lines in the title tablet. Since the scratches are not disturbed at this spot it follows that the two lines were added to the original title and not deleted from it.

In short, the title was changed from 6 to 8 lines, and not from 8 to 6. Examples of the undated state that are known to the writer, have the "feel" of being proofs before date. This is not intended to imply that the undated state was engraved much before 1566.

A LATE-ISSUE PTOLEMAIC WORLD MAP

In 1916 there was described in a German bookseller's catalogue³ a world map after Ptolemy, that was remarkable for the beauty of the engraving but was undated and from the burin of an unknown engraver. The style indicated that it was the work of the Italian School, probably dating between 1460 and 1480. These guesses are still good but we can now dispose of some other theories that have been advanced from time to time.

Taddeo Crivelli, a noted miniaturist, is known to have undertaken, in 1474, to have on hand for buyers fifty copies of a world map, but attempts to associate this fact with the map now under discussion have not been suc-

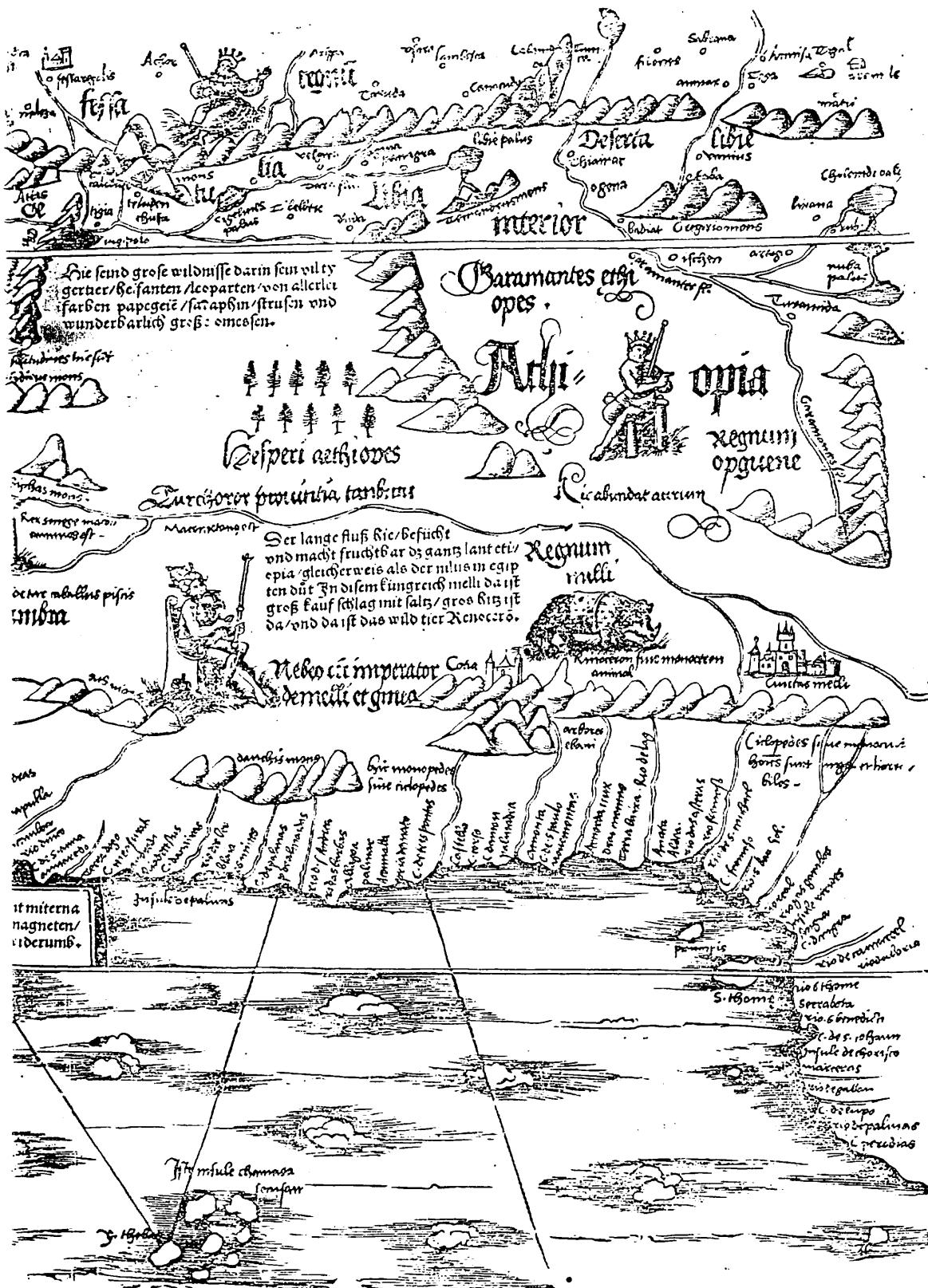
cessful. The failure lies in the absence of similarity in the workmanship to known examples of Crivelli's work. In fact, now that forty years have elapsed since the map was unearthed, scholars are still seeking the identity of the artist-engraver. An outstanding feature of the engraving is the elaborate acanthus-leaf border which we shall consider presently. The map was found with all of the border gone except from the left side. This imperfect print⁴ was priced at 800 marks and eventually it passed to the collection of H. H. Prince Youssouf Kamal in Cairo.

A second example came on the market in 1937. It provided an illustration for Bagrow's *Die Geschichte der Kartographie*⁵ and reference to that illustration shows a label pasted in the center of the bottom border. The label reads *Petri de Nobilibus Formis*. A mere pasted label proves nothing but its presence first led to the suggestion that the print might be a sixteenth century re-issue. Eventually, as we shall see, this imprint of Nobilibus did establish a late printing, but only after additional evidence became available. This second example was acquired by the Tall Tree Library, but sans label. The latter had been removed before the map was brought to our attention. Bagrow's illustration shows also how this copy lacks the border on the left side, as well as all four outer margins. While discussing the border we can dispose of another theory; that this attractive decoration might have been engraved on the plate at a considerably later time than the body of the map. On the contrary, the work seems all one. Thus far, it will be noted that no undamaged copy had been found.

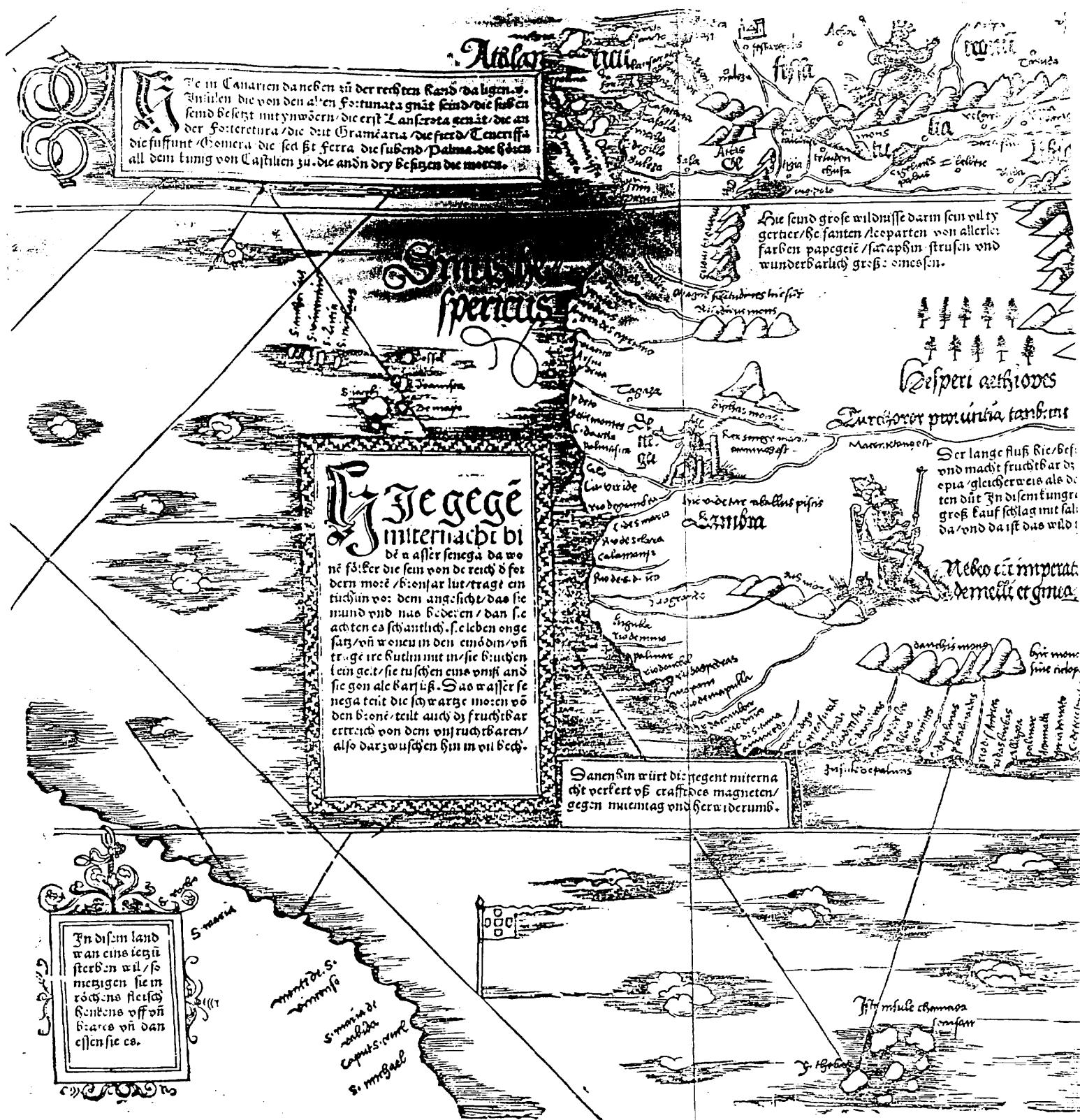
Now we come to a third example, only recently made known.⁶ Here the border is intact on all four sides and, more important, there are outer margins that reveal just where the Nobilibus imprint rightfully belongs. It is engraved in the bottom margin, which is of course far more significant than when pasted on the map as a label.

The imprint of this Roman print seller is frequently encountered as an addition to other plates that had previously seen service without such imprint. In our map collection we happen to have twelve such maps, all being re-issues *circa* 1592, although they bear old dates between 1561 and 1585. Elsewhere in *Imago Mundi*⁷ we have mentioned the Nobilibus imprint added to a so-called Lafreri title page in an atlas where some of the maps are dated as late as 1592. This pretty well establishes the date of our Ptolemy map as a re-issue, very late sixteenth century. What little we know about the watermark tends to support this conclusion.

Supposedly there is preserved in one of the Italian libraries another example of this map but we have no details that would add to our knowledge. We still do not know when the plate, prior to the Nobilibus imprint, may have first been put to press, whether its style can be



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FRAGMENTS OF A WOODCUT MAP OF AFRICA, c. 1520, IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, LEIDEN. — CENTRE: PART OF LAURENTIUS FRIES'