

# History of Cartography, the art and science of making maps

Oldest known maps are Babylonian clay tablets.

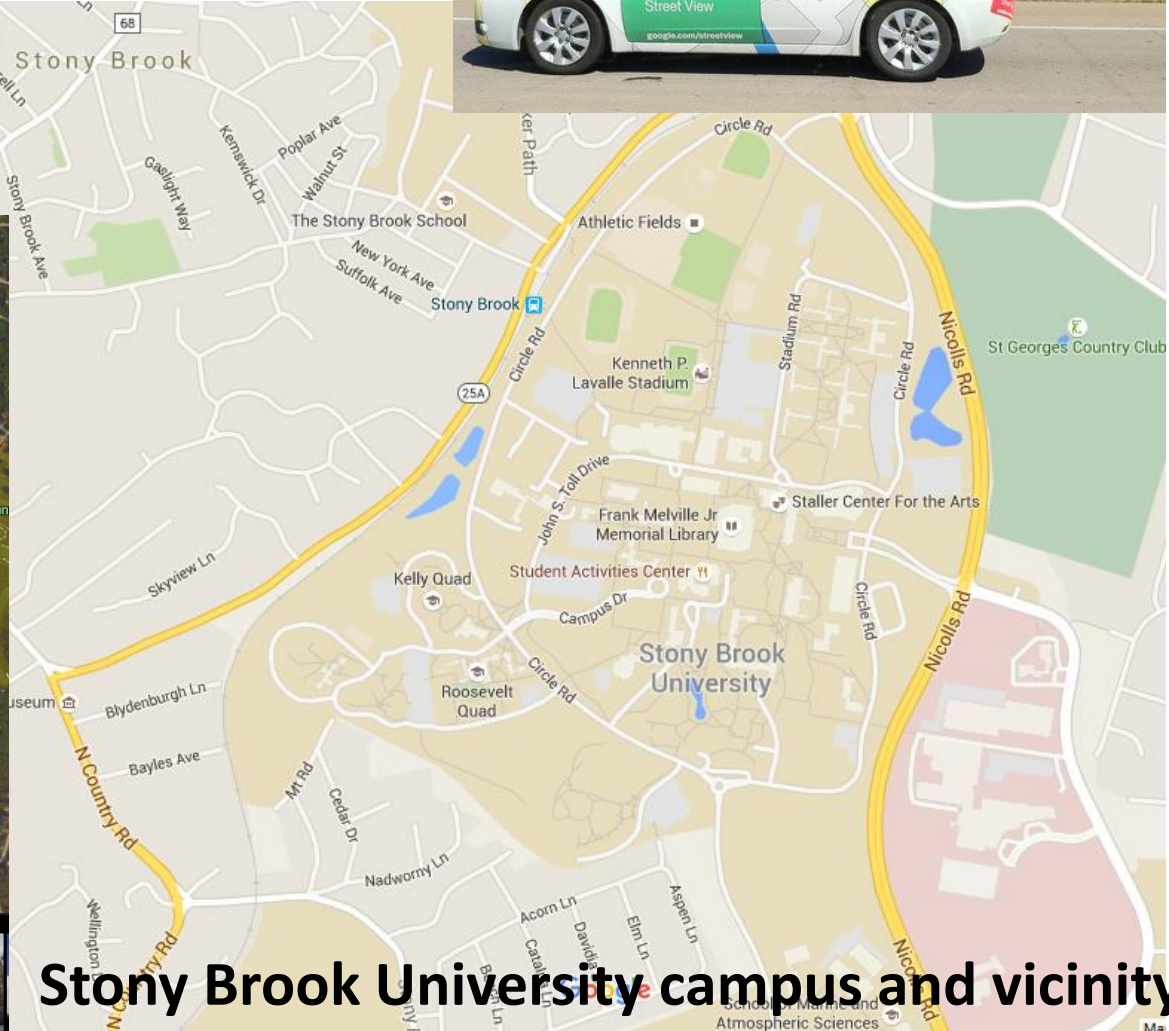
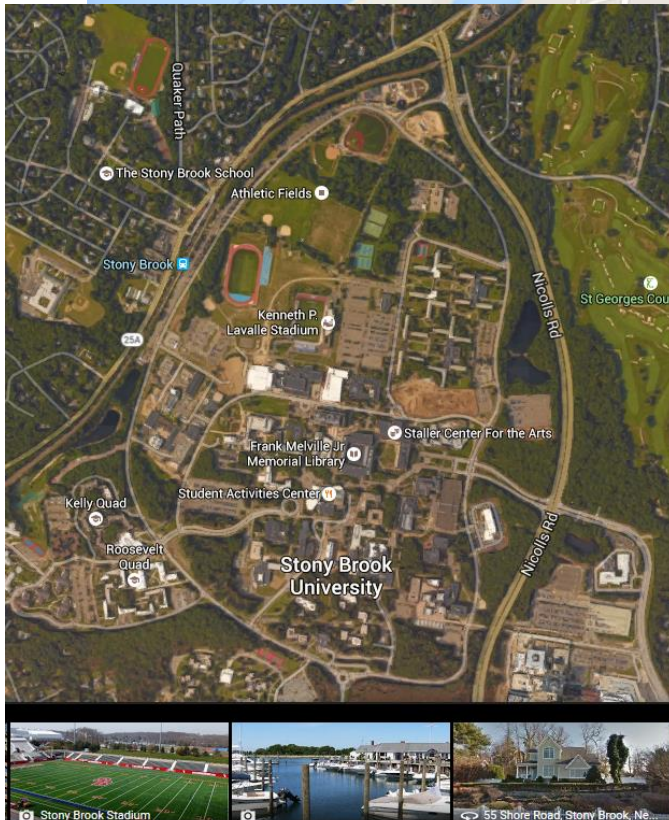


Inscriptions depict **small areas** like a village or a city.



# Modern Resources

~2000 AD



**Stony Brook University campus and vicinity**



# Greek and Roman Maps

**Ptolemy's**  
(AD 85-165)  
"world map"  
shows  
the Old World  
from about  
60°N  
to 30°S  
latitudes.



Note the *pretty accurate* depiction of Mediterranean, Arabian Peninsula and North Africa regions.



# Medieval Maps

- Before 15<sup>th</sup> century, maps were hand drawn which made their distribution extremely limited.



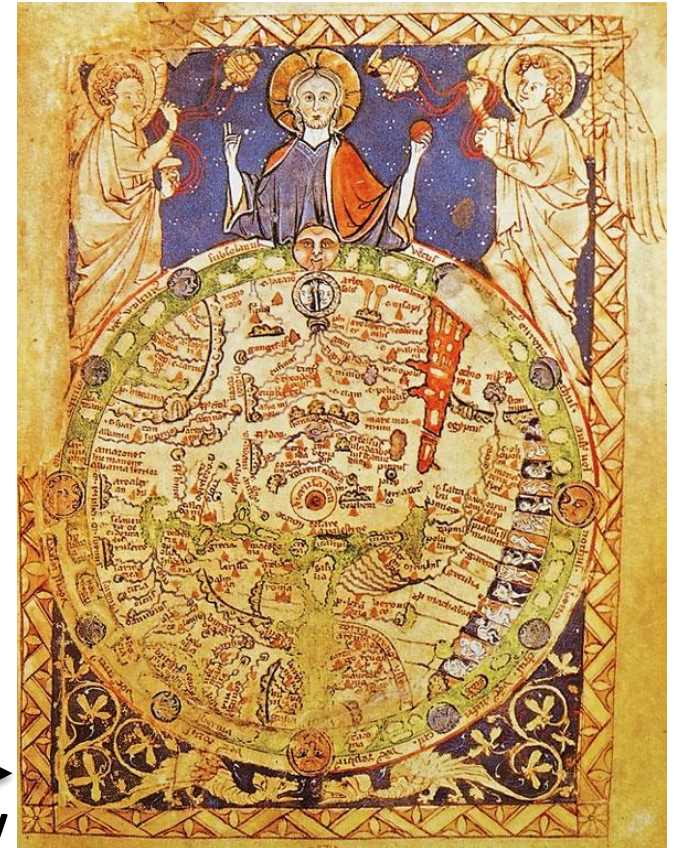
12<sup>th</sup> century



Isidore ↑  
11<sup>th</sup> century



Hereford  
~1280 →



Psalter →  
13<sup>th</sup> century

- “**T-O maps**” appeared in religious books and were dominated by religious views; most maps were centered at *Jerusalem*.



# Renaissance Maps

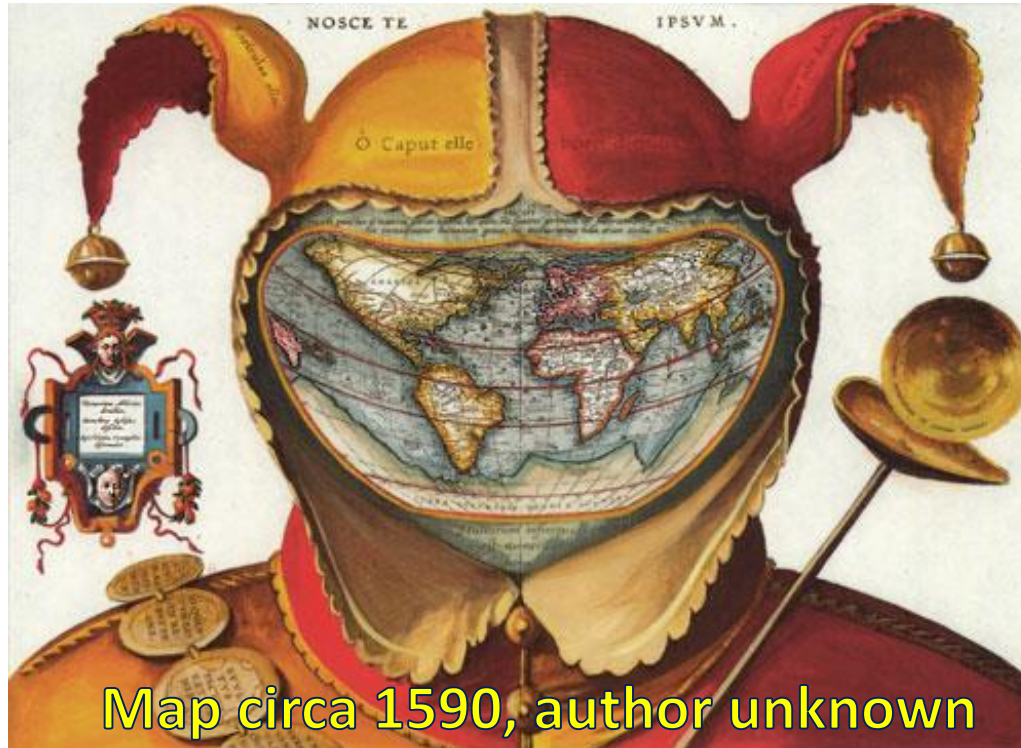
Beginning in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the invention of printing made maps much more widely available.



*First map to use the name “America” to label the New World, ~1507*

# The Fool's Cap World Map

Are maps realistic representations of the actual world?



**Not  
really!**

A map can display **only** a *few selected features*, usually in *highly symbolic styles*.

All maps are **estimations**, **generalizations**, and **interpretations** of true geographic conditions, made according to certain basic **assumptions** which are not always true or verifiable.



# World Maps

First **whole-world maps** began to appear in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century following voyages by Columbus and others to the *New World*.



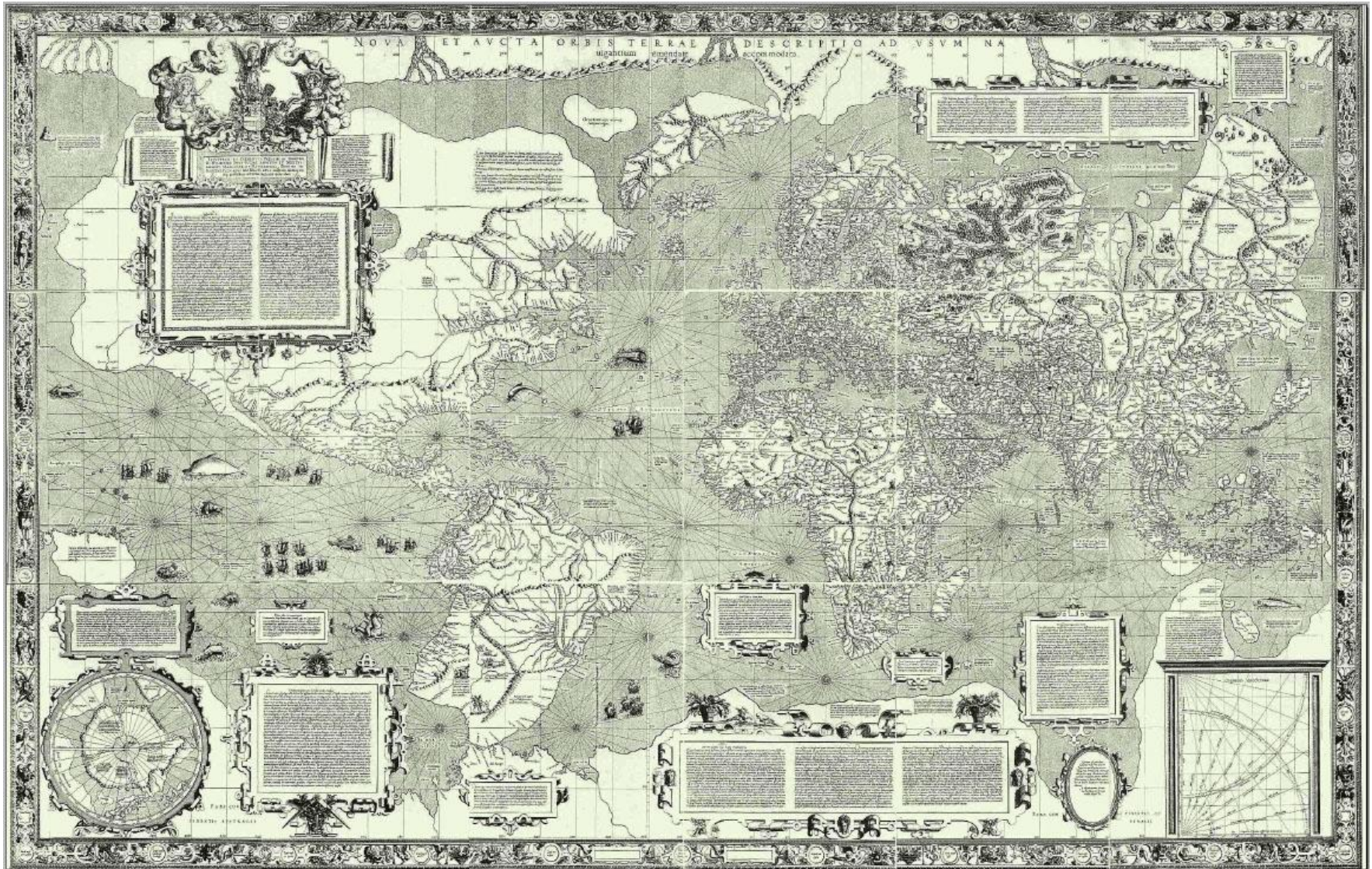
*Terrarum  
Orbis*

by  
Henricus  
Hondius,  
1633

**Which  
two  
continents  
were  
still  
missing?**



# 1679 Mercator Map of the World



Rhumb (constant course) lines are straight: map uniquely suited to marine navigation.