

During the last decade of the sixteenth century Jodocus Hondius engraved some little maps for the important Amsterdam publisher Cornelis Claesz, who used them as book illustrations. These included two world ones measuring 123 x 85 mm:

- the oval one, which has some incorrect longitude figures which were never altered (see above), in a 1596 edition of Jan Huygen van Linschoten's *Itinerario*.
- the hemispheres, on the title-page of the last edition of Peter Apian's *Cosmographia*, issued in 1592, 1598, 1609.



It seems that Claesz conceived the idea of producing a pocket world atlas with these two maps as a starting point, plus another of Europe which Hondius had also engraved for him†. For the rest of the plates he acquired the services of Hondius' brother-in-law, Pieter van den Keere, whose sister had married Hondius in 1587 when all three were living in London. Using all the latest sources of information available and with lovely style and precision, Keere created the finest miniature series to date. Only three maps have the date of their engraving: the Duchy of Milan is 1596 but both North Holland and Cuba are 1597. The only one to acknowledge its source was that of the Congo after Philip Pigafetta. Keere signed forty* of the plates, which are about the same size as the Hondius ones and, with a few exceptions, their titles are in cartouches, often ornate:

Typus orbis terrarum†; celestial hemispheres; terrestrial hemispheres†; Europa†; Asia; Africa; America An. 1492 Christoph Colûbo Invêta;

Anglia; Cambria; Scotia; Hibernia; Hispania; Andaluzia; Valentia; Baia de Cadiz; Majorcæ et Minorcæ descrip; Portugallia*;*

Gallia; Gasconia; Poictou; Biturigum; Limania; Galliæ Narbonêsis descriptio; Venuxmus Comitatus; Savoie; Burgundiæ com; Burgundiæ Ducatus; Aniou; Britannia; Normandia; Caletensium et Bononiêsium des.; Picardia; Veromādui; Lotharingia;

Germania; Inferior Germania; Leodiensis Dioecesis; Namur; Lutzenburg; Hannonia; Artesia; Flandria; Brabantia; Selandia; Hollandia; Zuydhollād; plan of Arx Britannica or Huys te Britten; 1597 Hollandia septen.*; Die Zyp; Ultrajectum; Geldria; Trans-Isula.D; Frisia; Frisia Orientalis*; Westphalia; Thietmarsia; Dania*; Islandia*; Septentrionalum regionû descrip.*; Gotia; Nortcaep; Russia*; Livonia descrip.; Gotland; Prussia; Polonia; Oswieczimêsis et Zatoriensis Duc.; Pomerania; Brandenburg; Saxonia Thuringia Misnia; Silesia; Bohemia; Franconia; Noricum; Bavaria; Salisburgensis Diæcesis; Austria; Træssilvania; Hungaria; Illyricum; Sara et Zebenic; Tirolis comita; Helvetia;*

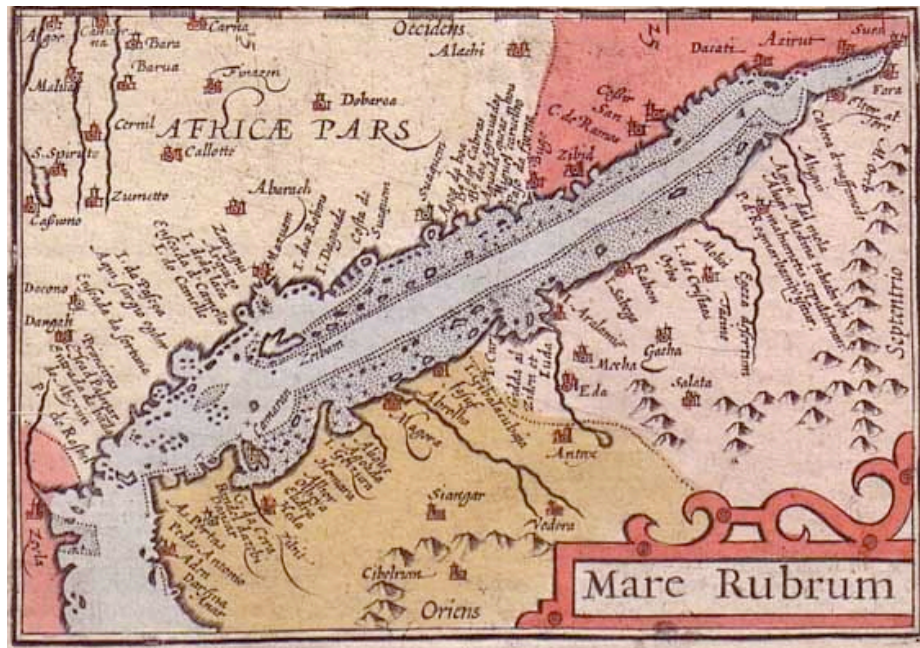
Italia; Histria; Forum Iulii; Patavunum. Ter.; Veronensis Ager.*; Bresciano*; Cremae Ager.*; Ducatus Mediolanensis finitimarûque regionû Descriptio. a° 1596*; Cremonensis Ager.*; Larius lacus.*; Pedemintii descriptio; Tuscia*; Siena*; Perusia*; Orvietum*; Marcha Anconæ, olim Picenum. 1572*; Romanum territorium; Regnum Neapolitanum*; Aprutium*;*

Sardinia; Corsica; Elba; Ischia insula; Sicilia; Malta; Corfu; Græcia; Morea; Cefalonia; Zante Insula; Candia;*

Turcicum Imperium; Natolia; Scio; Rhodi*; Cyprus; Palestina*; Persia*; Tartaria; India orien; Iapan; China*; Insulæ Philippinae*; Moluccæ insulæ; Borneo*; Iava maior*; Sumatra insula; Malacca; Aracam*; Bengala; Maldivae insulæ; Malabar; Narsinga et Ceylon*; Cambaia; Ormus; Arabia;*

Aegyptus; Abissinorum Imperium; Africa pars meridionalior; Insulæ & Ars Mosambique; Mare Rubrum; I.S. Lauretij; Congi Regni Christiani in Africa nova descriptio Auctore Philippo Pigafetta; Sancta Helena; Ins. Sti. Thome; Guinea; Insulæ Capitis Viridis; Insulæ Canariae ol Fortunatae; Barbaria; Carthaginensis sinus;*

Tercera; Insularum Cubæ, Hispaniolæ Iucatanæ & circumjacentium descriptio.; Cuba insula anno 1597*; Aity sive Spaniola*; Peruana; Brasilia; Chili et Patagonum regio; Peru; Mexicana; Terra nova; Fretum Magellanicum*; Nova Guinea et In Salomonis*; Ins. Vaygats.*



beachmaps.com

The *Caert-thresoor* [*Map-treasury*] was first published in 1598 at Middelburg, under the joint imprint of Barent Langenes and Cornelis Claesz. The two men had a business relationship and Langenes' name appears in the title-page imprints of some editions of both of the maritime atlases of Lucas J. Waghenaer, which Claesz published. He is known to have sometimes outsourced the letterpress printing for his atlases and this may well have been the case with the *Map-treasury* too, for he went on to publish further editions produced for him by other printers in other cities. The number of plates varies slightly between editions.

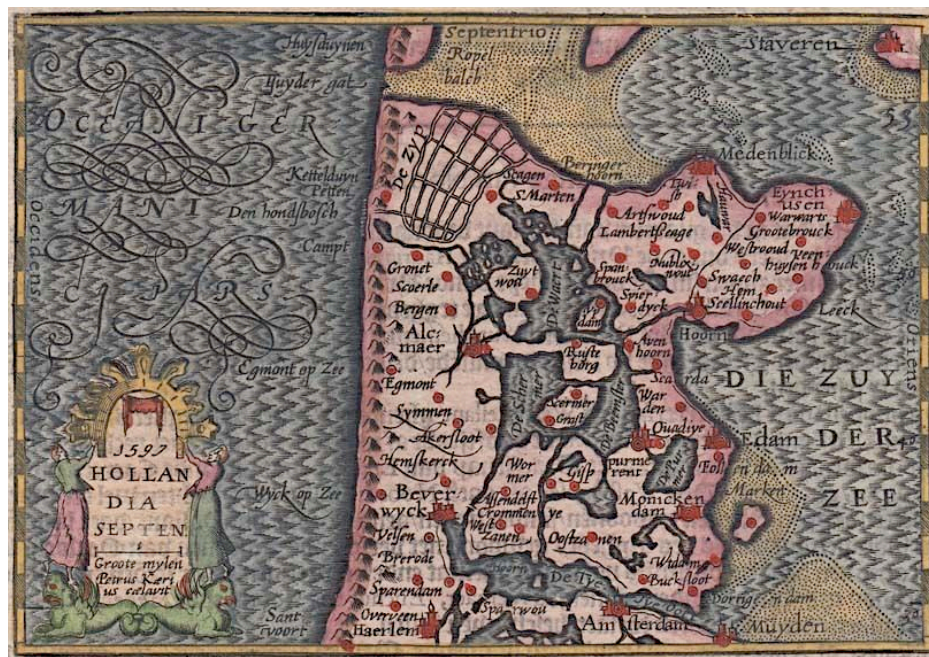


beachmaps.com

After the first edition of the atlas, degrees of latitude only were added to most of the plain two-line borders, but not longitude, as is sometimes wrongly stated. Four of the plates were also replaced by new ones engraved by Benjamin Wright (see 1599). In 1602/3 a few extra maps were added to the original 166, including one after Petrus Bertius which was signed by Hondius†:

Gallia Belgicae veteris accurata descriptio P. Bertio auctori ... coelavit I. Hondius†; Clivia Ducatus; Coloniensis Dioecesis*; Hassiae descriptio; Palatinatus Rheni*; Alsatia*; Norwegia.*

The complicated relationship between all the various issues was disentangled by Cornelis Koeman in volume II of his masterpiece: *Atlantes Neerlandici*, Amsterdam, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, 1969. Claesz issued both Dutch and French versions of the *Map-treasury*, but the anonymous explanatory text in Dutch was fully revised by Jacobus Viverius for the 1609 edition. The French ones were translated by I. De la Haye and printed in The Hague by Albert Hendricks and at Leiden by Christoffe Guyot. Although an English one was licensed in 1600 and Keere probably engraved additional maps intended for inclusion in it (see 1617), this project did not come to fruition.



beachmaps.com

Some of the maps were used by Claesz to illustrate several other works he published. He also produced three editions of a geography book with Latin text, which he illustrated with the full set of maps. The author was Petrus Bertius, whose sister was married to Keere, and its rather misleading titlepage appears to credit Bertius with the authorship of the maps. Koeman describes it as a new geographical treatise illustrated by maps, rather than another edition of the atlas with explanatory text translated into Latin. A completely new edition with new maps was subsequently published (see 1616).

After Claesz died in 1609, Henry Laurentz took over his business. A further French edition of the atlas and a German translation of Bertius' book were subsequently printed for him by Matthias Becker. Finally there were two rare late issues, half a century after the first edition:

- the one by Claes J. Visscher in 1649, without text but with plate numbers added and many extra maps by Visscher and Benjamin Wright (see 1649 & 1649a);
- the last in 1650 with apparently old left over sheets from the 1612 German edition and a new title-page by Jan Jansson, whose father was joint publisher of the first two editions of Bertius.

The two world maps were considerably retouched when last used by Claes J. Visscher in 1649: Terra Australis deleted on the first and much reduced on the oval, with Hondius' signature replaced on both by that of Visscher (see 1649).

Caert-thresoor. Middelburg, Barent Langenes & Cornelis Claesz, (1598); Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, 1599.

Thrésor de chartes. Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, (1599), 1602; Henry Laurentz, (1610).

P. Bertii Tabularum geographicarum contractarum libri quatuor. Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz & Arnhem, Jan Jansson, 1600; Amsterdam, Claes J. Visscher, 1649.

P. Bertii Tabularum geographicarum contractarum libri quinque. Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz & Arnhem, Jan Jansson, 1602 i.e. 1603; Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, 1606;

Hand-boeck; of cort begrip der caerten. Amsterdam, Cornelis Claesz, 1609.

Petri Bertii Geographischer eyn oder zusammengezogener tabeln. Frankfurt, Henry Laurentz, 1612.

Petri Bertii Beschreibung der gantzen welt. Amsterdam, Jan Jansson, 1650.

