

**Finding Schöner's Gores:
The Only Surviving Copy of the Second State of the 1515 Globe
Newly Identified in the Wolfegg Codex**

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The Wolfegg Codex is arguably the most important compilation of Renaissance cartography to have come down to us. The Codex was discovered in the collections of the Wolfegg Castle, in Wurttenburg Germany, by Father Joseph Fischer in 1901 and contains some of the most important cartographic works of the sixteenth century. The book compiled by Johannes Schöner (1477-1547) sometime after 1516 contains the only surviving copies of the 1507 World Map and the 1516 Carta Marina by Martin Waldseemüller, a star chart by Stabius as rendered by Albrecht Dürer and a set of celestial globe gores by Schöner himself.

In 1903 Joseph Fischer produced a facsimile of the 1507 and 1516 maps along with a detailed commentary. In order to facilitate the creating of the lithographs for the facsimile Fischer had the maps removed from the codex and in doing so found fragments of a terrestrial globe gore printed on vellum. The fragments were apparently used as binding supports or were used as mounts for the maps themselves. The actual purpose of the strips cannot be ascertained from Fischer's records. Fischer mounted the gore strips on paper with a schematic drawing of the gore shapes and reinserted the pages back into the codex when it was re-bound after the creation of the facsimiles (figures 1 and 2). Fischer identified the gores as being from Schöner's 1515 globe and there has been no scholarly commentary on the gore fragments since the initial identification.

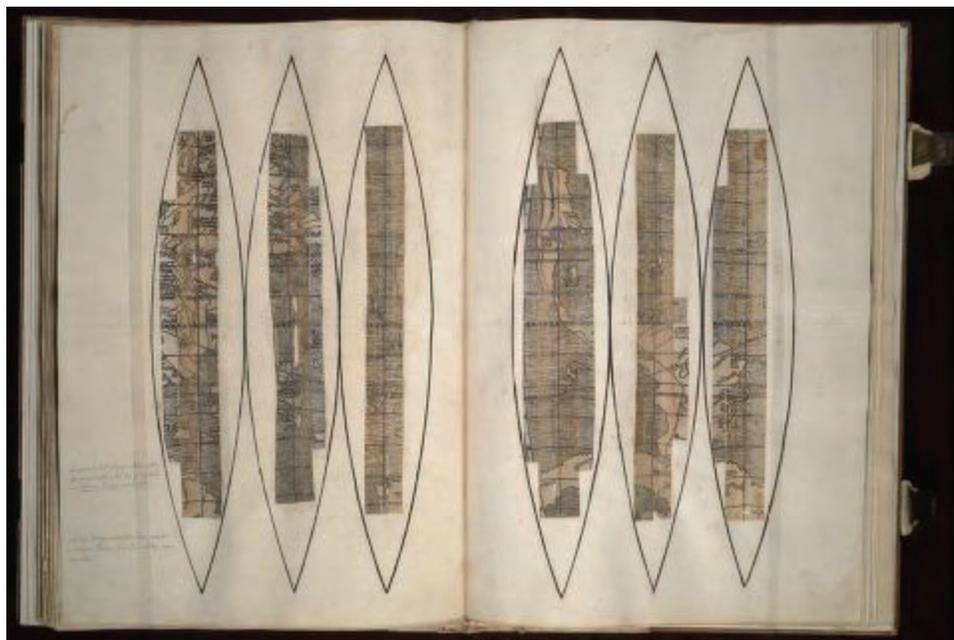
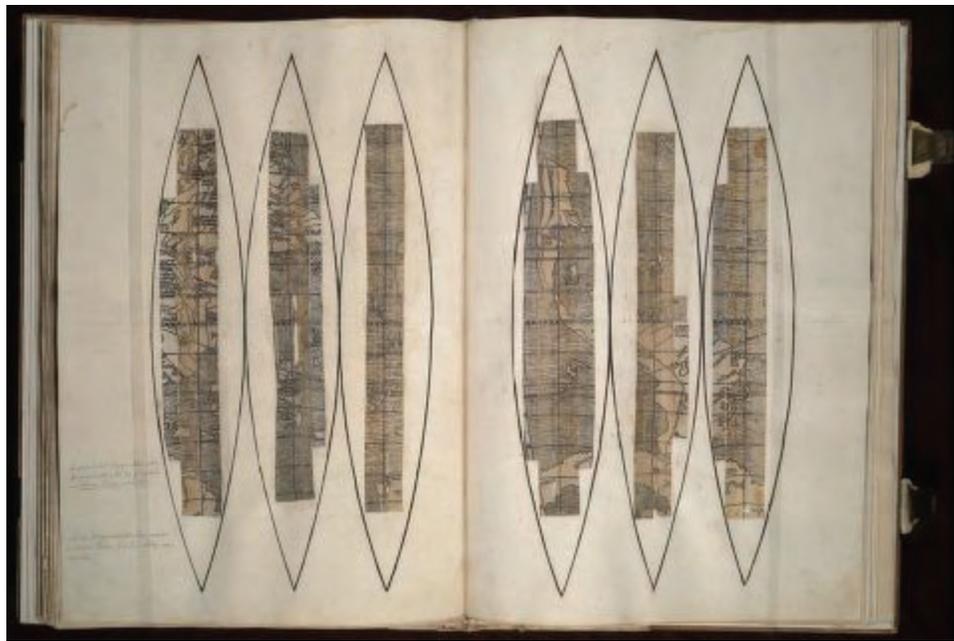


Figure 1: Fragments of the Gores in the Wolfegg Codex

The following paper shows for the first time that the gore fragments found by Fischer in the Wolfegg Codex represent the only surviving copy of the second state of Schöner's extremely important 1515 globe. Johann Schöner's 1515 globe depicts a passage around South America well before Magellan had discovered such a passage and resembles the representation of South America found on Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 world map. Waldseemüller's map does not explicitly show a passage around South America or the straits, meaning that Schöner's representation of the straits on the 1515 globe is the first to do so in the history of cartography (figure 2).

The 1515 globe, shown in figure 2¹, is known from a single example and shows striking differences from the gore fragments found in the Wolfegg Codex. A tracing of another example of the 1515 globe was made in the nineteenth century by Jomard and is reproduced in Nordenskiöld's facsimile atlas on pages 78 and 79. The globe sketched by Jomard was originally in the Frankfurter Stadtbibliothek but was destroyed in World War II. Jomard's sketch shows a very different globe than that of the 1515 example from Weimar but appears to be identical to the fragments found in the Wolfegg Codex.

¹ Only one copy of Schöner's 1515 globe survives. The globe is 27cm in diameter and is owned by the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar.

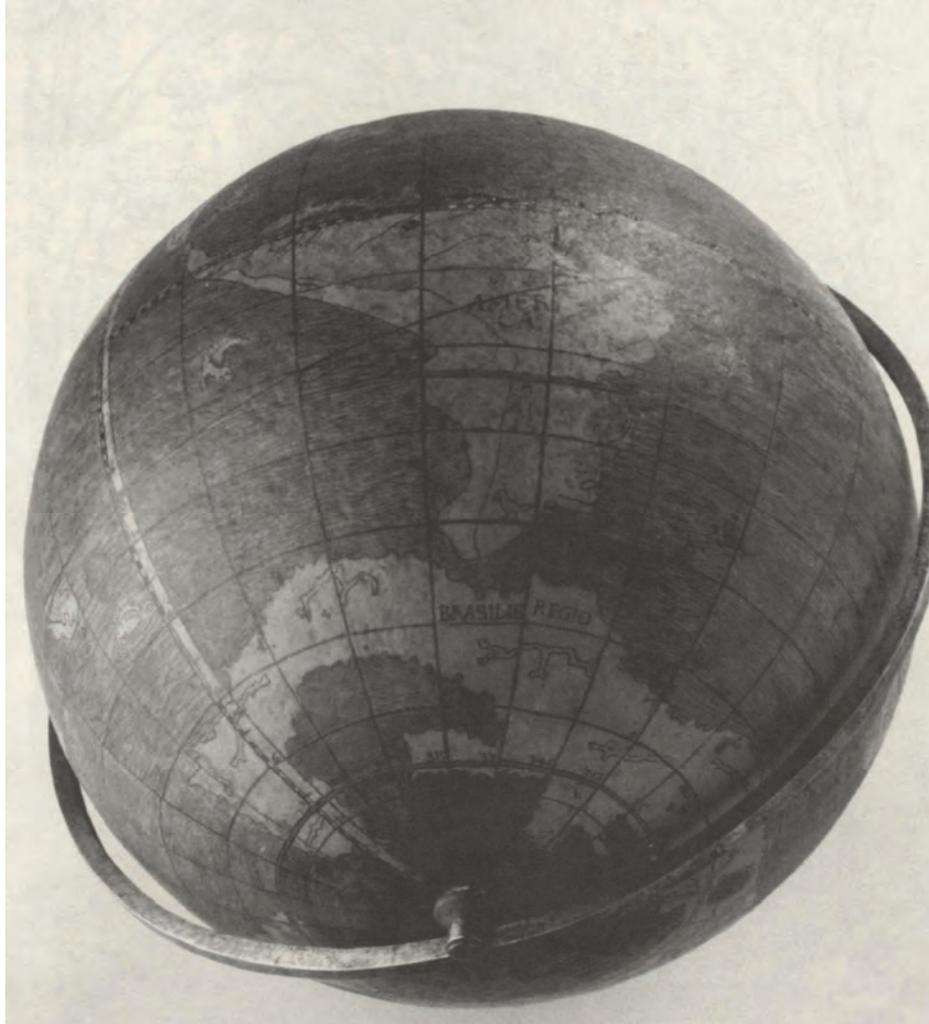


Figure 2: Only Surviving Copy of Schöner's 1515 Globe

(Note the area around sea creature on the west coast of SA contains no label)

The differences between the gore fragments and the 1515 Weimar globe are many and we shall only highlight a few. First, off the west coast of South America there is a small sea creature that is pictured just above the tropic on the 1515 globe, on Jomard's sketch, and on the codex fragments. The globe fragments and Jomard's sketch differ from the 1515 Weimar example in that they both show a label under the creature along the diagonal line

that represents the ecliptic as shown in figure 3. The word “zodiacus” is absent on the 1515 globe(see figure 2).

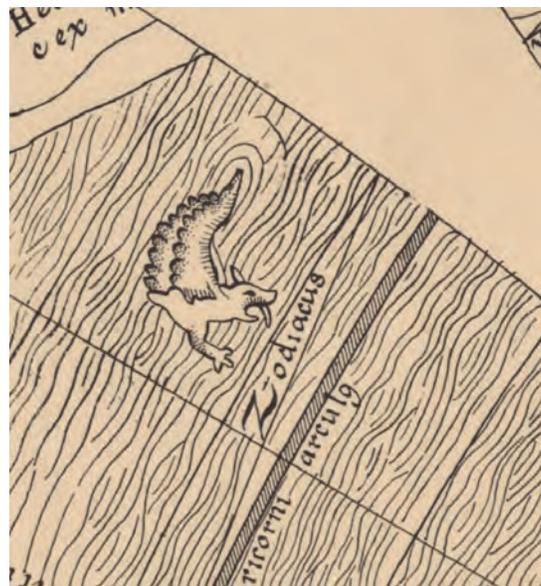
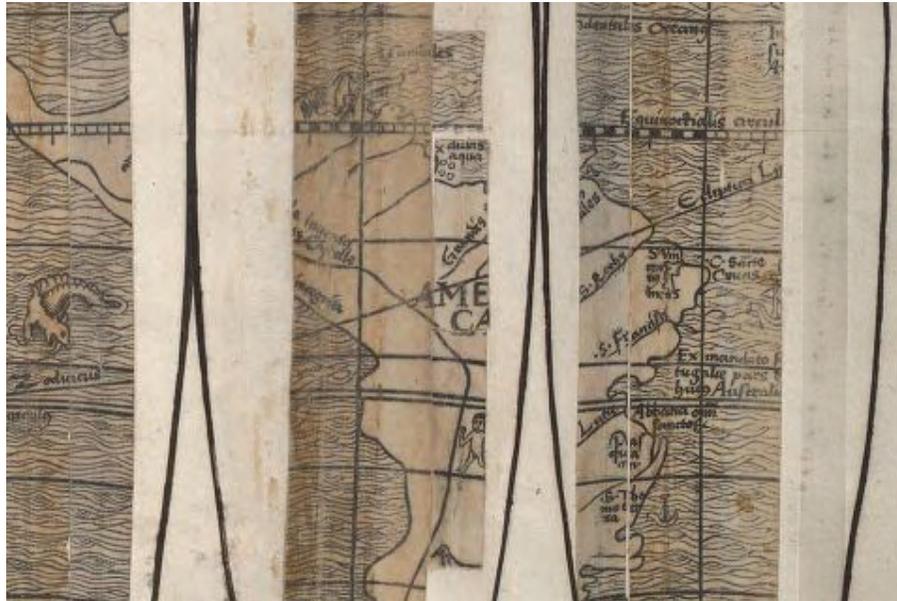


Figure 3: Globe Fragments and Jomard’s sketch showing label “zodiacus” along the ecliptic

Another difference between the globe and the fragments occurs in the area off the east coast of South America under the small representation of the ship shown in figure 4.

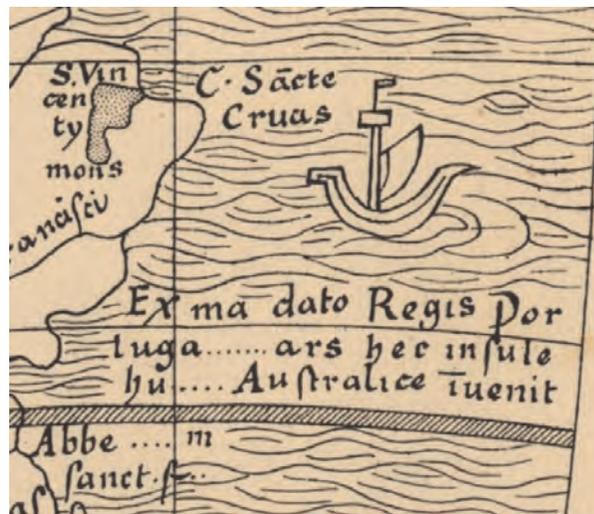


Figure 4: Area around ship on gore fragments and Jomard's sketch showing label below

In the fragments only a portion of the image of the ship survives but the label underneath it is clearly visible and does not appear on the 1515 globe. The label *Ex ma dato...* is however identically represented in Jomard's sketch.

There are many other differences between the gore fragments and the 1515 globe and based on these and what we have presented here we can conclude that the gore fragments found in the binding of the Wolfegg Codex are clear examples of the lost second state of the globe gores that were drawn in the nineteenth century by Jomard and that were found on the Frankfurt globe before it was destroyed in WWII. The fragments are therefore the only surviving examples of the second state of Schöner's extremely important 1515 globe and their importance to the history of cartography cannot be overstated.