

undertaken. We have deciphered a few of the names, and have prepared a careful copy of that part of the Mapamundi which more specially interests us as Americans.

The original map is on three large skins pasted together forming a sheet, according to Mons. Thomassy, the first describer of the map, 260 centimetres long and 130 high; say 102.36 inches by 51.18 inches, or with a width twice as great as the height. It is a general map of the world, as known to the designer of it, Hieronimus de Verrazano, but it bears no date. From the remark written under the name Nova Gallia, that this land was discovered five years before, we infer (supposing the date of Giovanni de Verrazano's voyage, as given himself, to be 1524), that the map was made in 1529. There is good reason to believe that Hieronimus (Jerome) was a brother of John, and that he put down the coast here alluded to from authentic data furnished by his brother.

There are certain coast features drawn on the map, which are not alluded to in the letter, seeming to prove that Jerome had his brother's charts before him. The plain indication of Long Island Sound, and of Cape Cod, is of itself sufficient proof that it was compiled from original drafts or notes. The latitudes, however, differ entirely from those given in the letter. The truth, perhaps, cannot be developed until this chart, which is open to examination, has received a closer study. New copies of it are needed, which may more faithfully render the coast names and minor details.

Further remarks on the map will be found in the notes to this paper.* The great interest that attaches to it, in our eyes, is the fact of its being the earliest known tracing of our coast, as made from actual exploration.

The only account of Verrazano's voyage left to us is in the form of a letter, written from Dieppe, July 8, 1524, to

* See note, *Verrazano Planisphere*.