

Paolo Forlani, 1566

IL DISEGNO DEL DISCOPERTO DELLA NOUA FRANZA*

IN 1565, the Venetian engraver Paolo Forlani printed the first printed map whose subject was limited to North America, a point of considerable iconic significance. Forlani was clearly a businessman who chose map subjects in such a way as to attract buyers and increase the market. A year later, Forlani's copper plate was reissued with the book and map publisher Bolognino Zaltieri's name and the date 1566 added.

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The sources of Forlani's map pose somewhat of an enigma, as little of it is based on Giacomo Gastaldi's 1561 map of the world heralded in his pamphlet of the same date, and which influenced other maps by Forlani. One feature was, however, common to both: the Strait of Anian, a passage between Asia and America that had appeared on earlier maps, but had not been named on a map until Gastaldi's map of 1561. The Strait of Anian remained on maps for several centuries although in different locations and represented the western end of a northwest passage. The strait was not found since nothing by that name existed, but the search for it led to the exploration of the Pacific Coast from California to the Bering Strait.

The focus of Forlani's title "recently taken from the newest voyages of the French in that region" is on the northeast part of the continent. Yet some of the names along the California coast are clearly derived from voyages in the service of Spain, particularly those by Francisco de Ulloa [1539-1540] (map 2) and Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo [1542] (map 3). Others inland from the coast are derived from the expeditions of Coronado (map 3) and Marcos de Niza. These include *Quiuira*, *Chichuich* (Cicuic), and *Tiguas* (Tiguez). *Tontontiac* comes from the Marcos de Niza expedition of 1539.

From Ulloa's voyage come *Y. di Cedri* (now Cedros), *Y. delle Perle* (Isla de las Perlas; mislocated, actually on the east side of the peninsula, now Isla del Esperto Santo); and *P. de Labbate* (Porto de Santo Abato). From Cabrillo, we find: *Sierra Neuada* (Sierra Nevada); *C. Neua* (Capo de Nieve, 38° 40'); *Galera* (now Point Conception, 34° 27'); *P. de Ogni sti.* (near Point Conception, now Cojo Anchorage); *P. de Fuogo* (now San Pedro Bay, 33° 43'); *P. de S. Michel* (now San Diego Bay, 32° 40'); *C. de Crus* (now Punta Santo Tomas, 31° 33'); *C. S. ✱* (Capo Santa Cruz, at the southern tip of the peninsula).

For its representation of the coast of the Baja and California, Forlani's map thus reveals a combination of readily available sources, many of which have been summarized in Ramusio's compilation of travel accounts.

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Il Disegno del discoperto della | noua Franza... [Map of the Discovery of New France, recently taken from the newest voyages of the French in that region. In this map one sees all the island, ports, capes and inland places that are there.] Published in copper in Venice by Bolognino Zaltieri, 1566. [Engraved, 28 x 40 cm.]

*MAP OF THE DISCOVERY OF NEW FRANCE

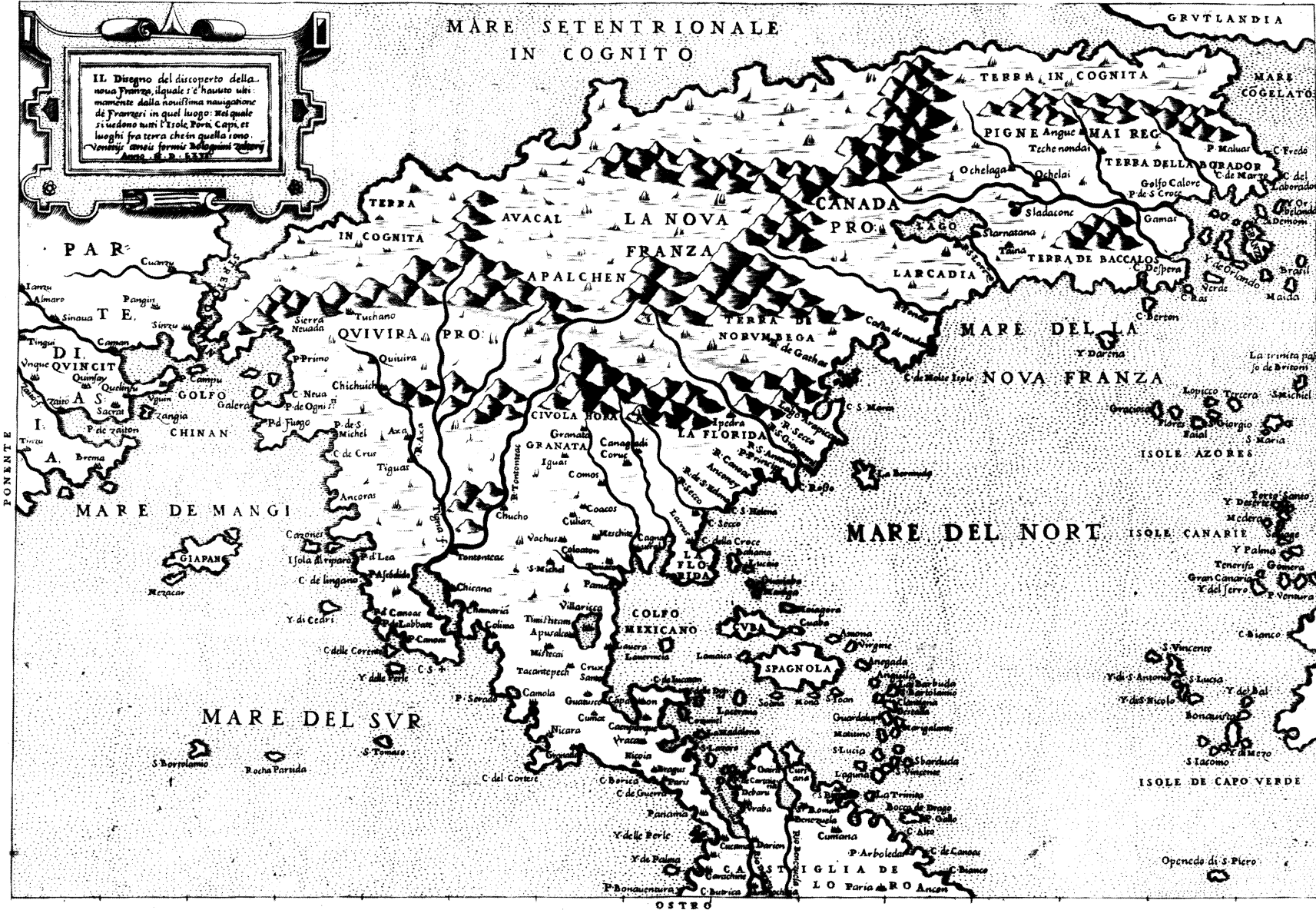
Map courtesy of the Huntington Library.

MARE SETENTRIONALE
IN COGNITO

GRVTLANDIA

MARE
COGELATO

IL Disegno del scoperto della
 noua Franza, il quale s'è hauuto ul-
 timamente dalla nouissima navigazione
 de' Francesi in quel luogo: Nel quale
 si vedono tutti l'Isole, Porti, Capì, et
 luoghi fra terra che in quella sono.
 Venetijs. anno formis ad Augustum 1582.
 Anno. 8. P. 5. 537.



PONENTE

ORIENTE

OSTRO