

A SO FAR UNKNOWN MAP BY HANS EGEDE

Ib Rønne Kejlbo

Kejlbo, Ib Rønne, 1976, A so far unknown map by Hans Egede. *Geografisk Tidsskrift*: 42-46. København, juni 1, 1976.

The Royal Library, Copenhagen, has acquired Hans Egede's manuscript 'Nova Delineatio / GRØNLANDIÆ ANTIQVÆ . . . 1737.' A hitherto unknown map. This map is most notable, being the first regular map prepared by a resident of Greenland. Moreover, it is worthy of fame because it is the first of Greenland on which Frobisher Strait has deliberately been left out after having been introduced into cartography during the 1570s, a suppression due to Hans Egede's investigations of the actual geographical conditions. Hans Egede made various copies of this map, and Christian VI's cousin, Count Ernst, for instance, obtained a copy which he incorporated in his library in Wernigerode. This copy came into The Royal Libraries possession some years ago.

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In my paper, "Hans Egede and the Frobisher Strait", published in *Geografisk Tidsskrift*, vol. 70, pp. 59-139, I described among other things one of Hans Egede's maps of Greenland, of which only one half of the original map is extant. I presumed that this map was the remaining part of a map enclosed with a proposal, now lost, which Hans Egede submitted to the *Missionskollegium* on January 4, 1737, "a new way and means of reconnaissance of the Eastern Settlement" [Østerbygden]. This remaining half covers the area of the legendary east coast never in fact reached by Hans Egede. The map, hereafter called 1737 A, bears the title: "Nova Delineatio/GRØNLANDIÆ ANTIQVÆ/Hvis Wester-Siide 1723 og 1724./ fra 60 og indtil 67. g^{der} er bleven perlustrerid langs Landet og inde/i fiordene flittig recognoscered af/Hans Egede. første Kongelig/Danske Missionair udi/Grønland./Kiöbenhavn d. 4. Januarij/1737." (In translation: "Nova Delineatio/GRØNLANDIÆ ANTIQVÆ /whose western side/from 60 to 67 degrees has been visited in 1723-24 and/in the districts along the fiords diligently reconnoitered by/Hans Egede, first Royal/Danish Missionary in Greenland. Copenhagen 4th of January 1737.").

In 1974 the Map Department of The Royal Library in Copenhagen acquired a real Hans Egede treasure, a splendid coloured Greenland map with delineation of the east coast as well as of the west coast. This map, hereafter called 1737 B, bears the same title as 1737 A, and not only are the titles identical, the title of 1737 B is also divided into the same number of sections and has the same spelling and abbreviations as 1737 A; the only difference is that 1737 A reads "Westersiide", whereas 1737 B reads "Wester=siide". The configurations of the coast on the right half of both 1737 A and 1737 B agree in every detail and further the contours of the two map cartouches are alike. The maps have been drawn on the same type of paper. Everything points in the direction that the one map is a tracing of the other, colouring and writing indicate that both maps were made by the same person. About the author there can be no doubt whatever, it is indeed Hans Egede, the writing on both maps is his.

The newly acquired map (1737B) is in a perfect condition except for a discoloration of the paper in the area near the upper edge of the map, presumably caused by humidity. Owing to this damage a couple of names are indistinct. Like 1737 A the map 1737 B is a coloured hand-drawing; total measurements 470×590, with grading 453×575 mm, without grading 432×553; Roman Numeral IV, watermarked paper, escutcheon with fleur-de-lis; cartouche and scale (approx. 1:2 miles) are the same as for 1737 A.

Whereas Hans Egede's proposal to the *Missionskollegium* regarding a new way and means of reconnoitering the Eastern Settlement must now be considered lost, this is not the case of the pertaining map material, which is probably identical with map 1737 B now in the possession of The Royal Library of Copenhagen. This theory is not weakened by the fact that in the upper right corner of the map Hans Egede has provided the figure 5, meaning either 'page 5' or perhaps 'enclosure no. 5' to the proposal. However that may be, we now know how the map looked which Hans Egede sent to the *Missionskollegium* on January 4, 1737, this is vouched for by the dating; and in addition we possess a complete copy of Hans Egede's first real Greenland map.

Description of the Map 1737 B.

Hans Egede's map of Greenland, here called 1737 B, is oriented towards the north and extends over the area from 59 to 67 degrees northern latitude, with grading indicated in numbers on either side. Division within each tenth minute is marked, but not numbered. Longitudinal grading is seen on the northern edge of the map, without any number indication at all, but most likely extending over 32 degrees.

Hans Egede had been shown a dense coppice of birch, willow, and juniper. Hans Egede refers to this growth as a scrub consisting of crooked trees with stems the thickness of an arm. On the strength of this experience he concludes, "nor does this contradict the ancient description of Greenland, which mentions the existence of woods on the eastern side of the country". Hans Egede expressly states 'the eastern part' of Greenland, but what he meant was 'the Eastern Settlement' [Østerbygden],

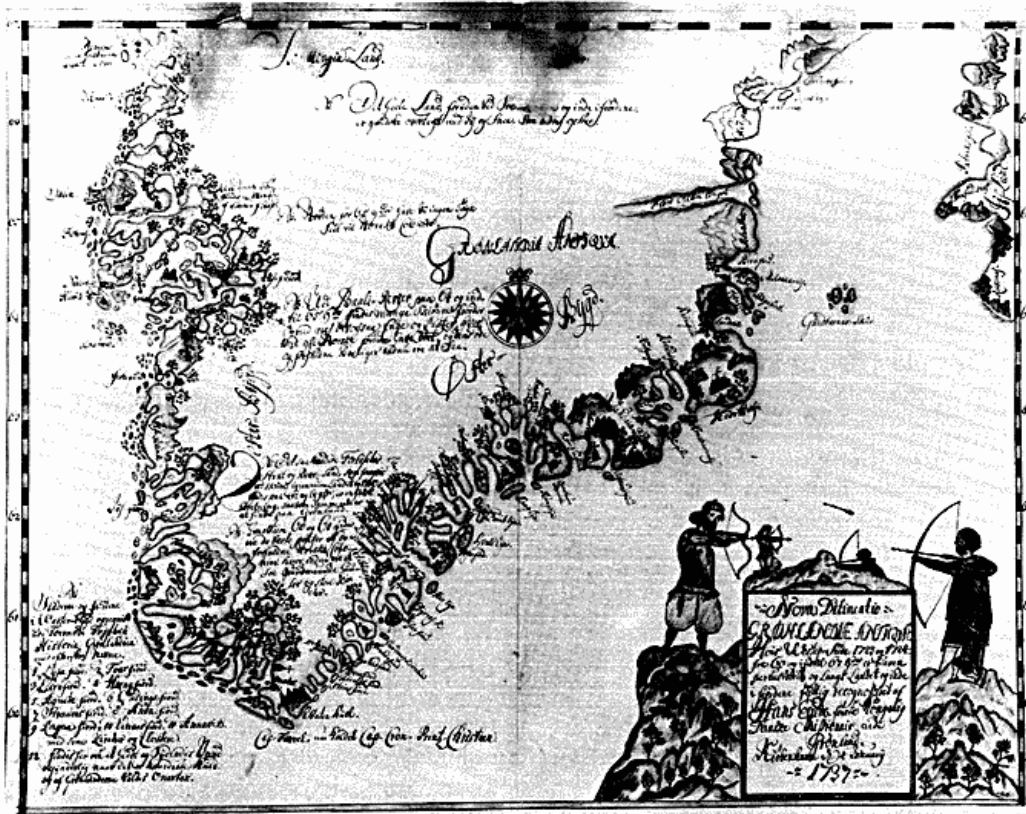


Fig. 1. Hans Egede's hand-drawn and coloured "Nova Delineatio / GRØNLANDIÆ ANTIQVÆ . . . 1737" reproduced after the original map preserved in the Map Room of the Royal Library, Copenhagen. 470x590 mm.

Fig. 1. Hans Egedes håndtegnede og kolorerede "Nova Delineatio / GRØNLANDIÆ ANTIQVÆ . . . 1737" gengivet efter originalkortet i Det kongelige Biblioteks kortsamling. 470x590 mm.

Signs: Mountains are symbolized by shadings in the colouring as can be seen on the west coast near 61 degrees northern latitude, an area which Hans Egede visited himself. Besides, the east coast that he never reached has also been amply supplied with "mountains". Stylized trees function as a wood sign, strongly marked especially on the west coast between 64 and 65 degrees and just south of the 61st degree northern latitude where

and this was not situated on the east coast at all. The result is a wood sign along the east coast of Greenland.

Small red coloured drawings of houses symbolize settlements: Godthåb, Håbets Ø, the Nepisene Lodge, and also ruins from the period of the Norsemen. Of these Egede indicated both such as he himself had seen on the west coast and such as he supposed to exist in the Eastern Settlement 'on the east coast'. In actual fact he delineated the Eastern Settlement in two places, both on the east coast and in the area around 61 degrees northern latitude on the west coast, which latter place was truly the Eastern Settlement of the Norsemen. This fact Hans Egede never really grasped.

Anchors, sign of anchoring places, are indicated near Håbets Ø, Godthåb, and Nepisene.

Colouring: blue shade along the coast, grey colour on the mountains along the coast, a yellowish shade along the isthmus. Compass card: yellow, red, and grey.

Place-names and Texts:

In the left corner below: *NB./Stæderne og fiordene/i Wester-býgd opregnes/udi Tormodi Torphæi/Historia Grönlandica/med efterskr: Navne./1 Lysu fiord. 2 Toar fiord./3 Leiru fiord. 4 Hornafiord./5 Agnata fiord. 6 Quidings-fiord./7 Straums fiord. 8 Anda fiord./9 Ragna fiord. 10 Einarsfiord. 11 Annavik./med sine Kircher og Clostere./12 Findis her och et hedt og Sydendis Vand/besunderlig naar det er haardiste kuld/og af Grønlaenderne kaldis Onartok.*

(In translation: N.B./Settlements and fiords in Wester-býgd are enumerated/ in Tormodi Torphæi/Historia Grönlandica/with postscript: Names./1/11 Annavik/with Churches and Closters./12 Here is also to be found Hot and Seething Water/especially in severe cold weather/and by the Greenlanders called Onartok.)

Texts and place-names of the west coast: Almost all of these bear relation to Hans Egede's expeditions along the west coast in the years 1723 and 1724; as indicated from north to south:

Nepisene/dend af Hollænderne/afbrændte Logie. Lax Elf.; det grunde; Salen; Isuktok; Lax Elfve; Udi denne Fiord findis en Mengde/af Steen-Flachs, Fiskenes; Nepisit-Sundet; Haabets Oë; Baals-Revier

(In translation: *Nepisine/the Lodge burnt by the Dutchmen. Lax Elf.; the shallow waters; Salen [the Hall]; Isuktok; Lax Elfve; In this fiord is a great quantity/of flat grounds [eller: huge flat stones?] Fiskenes; the Nepisit Sound; Haabets Oë; Baals-Revier - identical with 'Baals river', thus named by James Hall on his fourth and last expedition to Greenland, financed by the British merchant Richard Ball; Lax Elf: Caneisune (Kanisut, Kaneisune); Lax Elf.; Ujaraksuak, (in this fiord, to which Hans Egede came in the days from April 30 – May 3, 1723, he examined various ruins from the period of the Norsemen); Lis-fieldet; Pesiksiarbik (Pisigarfik); Kokok; Got Haab; Amaralik-fiord; Lax Elf.; Præstefiord; Koek-islands; Fiskefiord; Iis-Blink; Iis-fiord; Tongarsuit; Tunnelliarbik (identical with Tunugdliarfik). The indication of Norse ruins is based on information which Hans Egede received from some Greenlanders during his homeward passage August 31, 1723; Kakortok, (Kakoetut; this place was reached by Hans Egede August 28, 1723; in his travelling diary he describes the famous church ruin); Iggalik (Igaliko). The ruin marking is done in accordance with information obtained August 29, 1723, from Greenlanders living in that Area. Hans Egede was then on his way home and had passed the fiord at the time he got this piece of*

information; *Agluitsok* (identical with *Agdluitsoq*). On August 20, 1723, Hans Egede went by boat up this fiord and on the following day the expedition continued the boat trip because they had been told that both wood and Norse ruins were to be found there. Egede mentions this growth of trees as a scrub consisting of crooked trees with stems the thickness of an arm. The scrub is marked on the map; *Lax Elfve; Onartok; Cap-Farvel*, now *Cap-Cron-Printz-Christian!*

The texts and place-names referring to the east coast are repetitions of the texts and place-names on Thormod Torfæus' and Jacob Rasch's map of 1706, the map is reproduced in the *Geografisk Tidsskrift*, vol. 70, 1971, p. 73, fig. 7. Attached to this paper is a table with comparison between the place-names from Torfæus' and Rasch's map and Hans Egede's use of same.

Across the interior of Greenland the following legends run from north to south:

Screllingia-Land.

N.B. Det hele Land foruden ved Söe-Kanter og inde i fiordene,/er gandske overtekt med Iis og Sne, som aldrig optöer./

NB. Norden for 65gder have Vikingen Seign/seet til Norske Colonier.

NB. Udi Baals-Revier paa 64 og ind-/til 65 gder findis mange skjönne fiorder/og med gres bevochsne Enge og Platzer, hvor/vore gl: Norske forudum have boet, og deris öde/og forfaldne Boeliger endnu ere at see.

NB. Det saakaldede Forbisehrs-/Strat og Bear-Sund, som foregvis/at skiere igiennum Landet og Skal/findis paa 62 og 61 gder, er en falsk/beretning, saasom samme icke er/at finde paa Grönland.

NB. Imellum 60 og 61 grder/ere de beste platzer af de/forfaldne Norske Colonier, hvor endnu ere at/see grundmurede Huu-/ser og store Kir-/cher.

(In translation:

N.B. *The land besides the sea coast and banks of the fiords/is all over covered with never-melting snow and ice.*

N.B. *North of 65 degrees the Viking Seign/has seen Norse Colonies.*

N.B. *In Baal's Revier on the 64th and un/til the 65th degree northern latitude are many beautiful fiords/and meadows and spots covered with grass where/our old Norse ancestors once lived, and their desolate/and decayed dwellings are still to be seen.*

N.B. *That the so-called Forbisehrs'/Strat and Bear Sound, should be said/to cut across the land and/to be found on the 62nd degree northern latitude is a false report as these same are/not in Greenland at all.*

N.B. *Between the 60th and 61st degree north the best*

places are the/ruins of the Norse colonies where still can be seen/brick-built houses and big church/es.)

Comments on the Place-Name Material

On map 1737 B the names *Ineulta*, *Geiðar*, *Obygðar* and *Harra Sound* are almost illegible owing to the brownish discolorations along the upper edge of the map. There are certain inconsistencies in Hans Egede's location of some of the place-names on the two maps from 1737 (as previously mentioned: of one of these we only have the right half). On one of the two maps he places *Funkabunder* as the first fiord north of Fiord Ollum lengri whereas on the other, recently acquired map he places *Funkabunder* as the second fiord. *Krogsfiorder* is indicated as the second fiord north of Fiord Ollum lengri on the one map as the third fiord on the other, recently acquired map. On one of the maps *Afvardsfiord* is placed north of the "peninsula" *Vandala-bygd* and in this fiord is located the island *Lundey*, on the other recently acquired map, however, *Afvardsfiord* is delineated as a fiord on the "peninsula". The name *Siglu fiord* is to be found on one of the two maps from 1737, but not on the map recently acquired.

With the appearance of Hans Egede's map of Greenland, 1737 B, his oldest real map, on which his expeditions along the west coast of Greenland have found cartographical expression, we obtain a still better impression on Hans Egede's maturity and skill as a cartographer than we had before, and that certainly was not slight. But the map 1737 B will stand as a symbol of Hans Egede's importance as an informant of geographical knowledge about Greenland and the Greenlandic Community in the 18th Century, an extremely valuable source material within the field of historical cartography.

RESUME

Det kongelige Biblioteks kortsamling har erhvervet Hans Egedes "Nova Delineatio./GRØNLANDIÆ ANTIQVÆ / Hvis Wester=Siide 1723 og 1724./ fra 60 og indtil 67 Gder er bleven /perlustrerid og Langs Landet og inde / i fiordene flittig recognosceret af / Hans Egede, første Kongelig / Danske Missionair udi / Grønland./ Kiöbenhavn d. 4. Januarij / 1737" Koloreret håndtegning, 490×590 mm.

Dette kort er såre bemærkelsesværdigt, fordi det er det første egentlige Grønlandskort udarbejdet af en fastboende på Grønland. Det er endvidere berømmeligt, fordi det er det første Grønlandskort, hvorpå Frobisher Strædet bevidst er udeladt efter dets indførelse i den kartografiske verden i 1570erne. En udeladelse, der skyldes Hans Egedes geografiske undersøgelser af de faktiske forhold.

Hans Egede, der nåede til Grønland i 1721, begyndte naturligt nok at foretage forskellige rekognosceringer på vest-

kysten for at finde strædet i den hensigt at sejle gennem det til østkysten. Efter hjemkomsten til Godthåb, og da han havde korrigeret gradmålingerne, konstaterede han, at han havde været ganske nær Grønlands sydpunkt. Da han ikke havde set og ej heller fået nogle oplysninger, som skulle bekræfte dette strædes eksistens, drog han den slutning, at det slet ikke eksisterede.

Kartografisk resulterede Hans Egedes sejlads langs Grønlands sydvestkyst i to såre interessante kort. Det første kort tegnet i 1724 er nærmest en skitse med landtoninger og kystprofiler over det besejlede område. Det andet kort, det som Det kongelige Bibliotek nu har erhvervet, er - som det ses (fig 1) - et kort over Grønland med såvel gengivelse af vestkyst som østkyst. Hans Egede tegnede forskellige kopier; således erhvervede Christian den Sjettes fætter, grev Ernst, en kopi, som han indlemmede i sit bibliotek i Wernigerode. Dette eksemplar har Det kongelige Bibliotek tidligere erhvervet (se: Hans Egede og Frobisher Strædet "G.T. 70, 59-139).

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Egede, Hans, 1724: "Continuation/af/Journal-Relationen/angaaende dend foretagne Mission till de hedenske/Grønlænders Omvendelse fra Julio 1723/indtill Julium 1724./ Med indbefattet Reysebeskrivelse og anecterende/Land-Cart ofver en to til tre Graders Reyse/Sønden og Norden Colonien, aflagt ved Hans Egede, Kongl: Danske Missionarium udi Grønland".

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Copies, Thott. Quarto 1572. 2 maps attached, one of which a coloured copy based on Egede's map from 1724; the other, likewise coloured, with note: In all these Fiords the old Norsemen once dwelt. Evidence of their Settlement is given by many now desolate Paddocks and Open Spaces (marked in red). The map comprises: The Dutch Trading Station, Baal's River, Amaralik Fiord, Pesichfiarbame and Uparachsuach", and also the Mouth of Priest's Firord". - Thott. Fol. 986, Univ. Bibl. Add. Fol. 245.

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Egede, Hans, 1738: Omstændelig og udførlig Relation. Angaaende Den Grønlandske Missions Begyndelse og Fortsættelse. 1738.

Egede, Hans, 1741: Det gamle Grønlands Nye Perlustration, Eller Naturel=Historie og beskrivelse over det gamle Grønlands Situation, luft, Temperatur og Beskaffenhed. De gamle Norske Coloniers Begyndelse og Undergang der Samme=Steds, de itzige Indbyggeres Oprindelse, Væsen, Leve=Maade og Handtæring, samt hvad ellers Landet Yder og giver af sig, saasom Dyer, Fiske og Fugle &c. med

hosføyet nye Land=Caart og andre Kaaber=Stykker over Landets Naturalier og Indbyggernis Handtæring. København 1741.

Egede, Hans, 1925: Relationer fra Grønland 1721-36 og Det gamle Grønlands ny Perlustration 1741. Meddelelser om Grønland, 54, København 1925.