

# I. Barent Langenes; Petrus Bertius

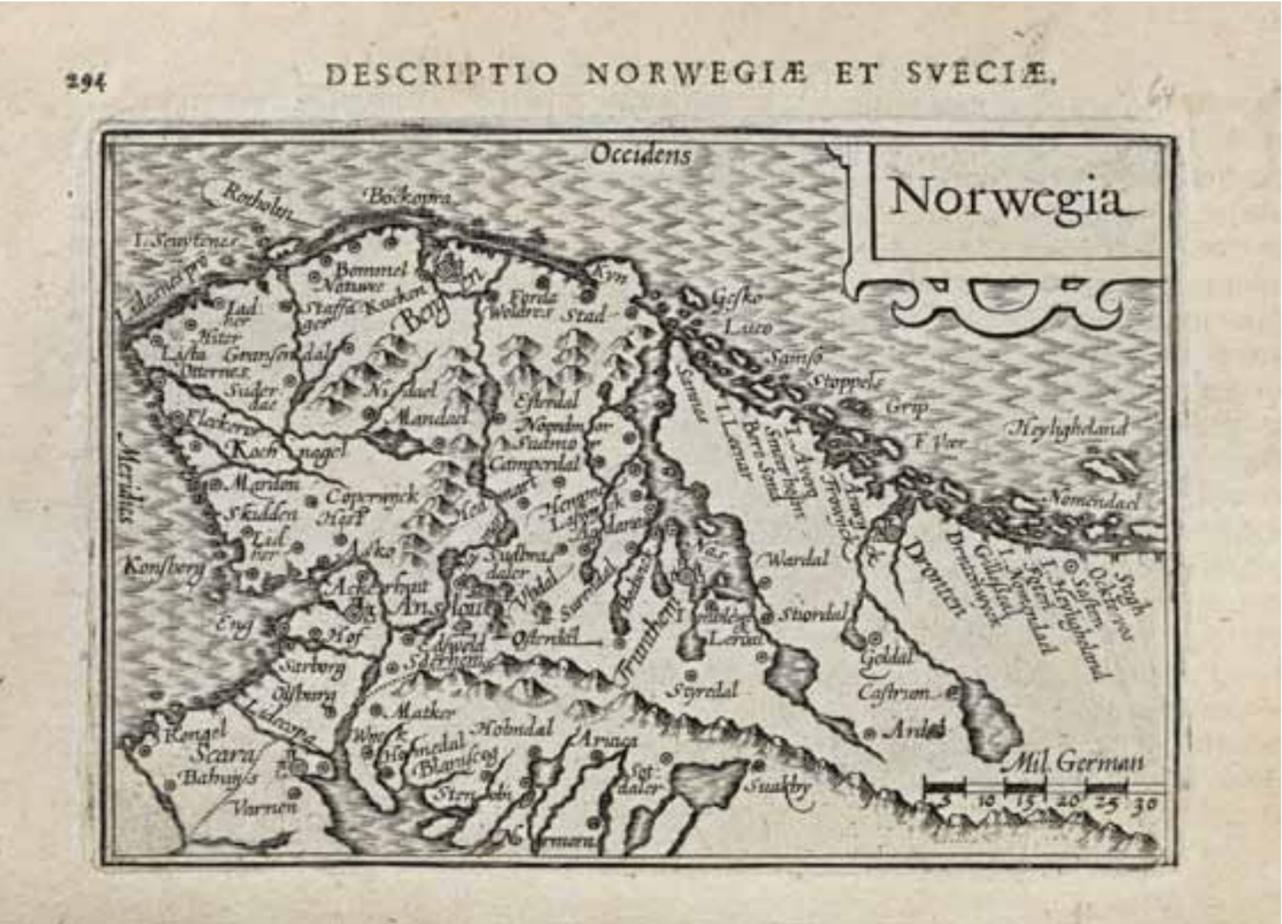
Leiden, 1602  
 Norwegia  
 Copperplate engraving, 8.5 x 12.2 cm  
 From *Thresor de Chartes*

*Norwegia*, the first map to depict Norway separately (fig. 1.o), appeared in 1602 in the French edition of a miniature atlas published by Cornelis Claesz. Barent Langenes, a bookseller and publisher about whom little is known, originally issued this work as the *Caert-Thresoor* in Dutch in 1598 in Middelburg, the Netherlands. The Langenes atlas, albeit with rewritten text and from other publishers, enjoyed a commercial success that saw the issuance of a dozen editions over a lengthy period (see table right).

The title page of the first, 1598 Middelburg edition notes that the atlas was on sale at the shop of Cornelis Claesz in Amsterdam. This was probably done in order to increase sales beyond the Middelburg market. Claesz reissued the atlas in 1599, after removing Langenes's name, and he and his successors published all the later editions. The series of atlases is now more commonly associated with Petrus Bertius, who undertook the first rewriting of the text for the Latin edition of 1600, where his name is printed on the title page: "*P. Bertii Tabularum geographicarum contractarum libri quatuor*" (P. Bertius reduced geographical maps in four books).<sup>1</sup>

*Norwegia* occurs in only four of the twelve printings: 1602 and c. 1609 French, 1602/03 and 1649 Latin. The total set of three Dutch, three French, four Latin, and two German issues are summarized chronologically in the table, where bold typeface indicates those that include the map of Norway:

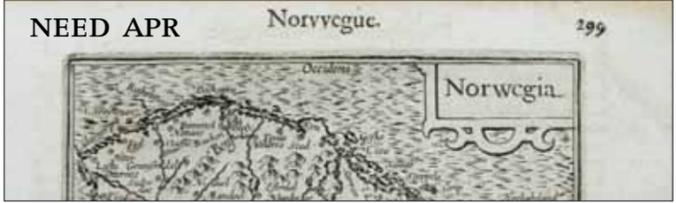
DATE	LANGUAGE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	PUBLISHED
1598	Dutch	Langenes(?)	Langenes	Middelburg
1599	Dutch	Langenes(?)	Claesz	Amsterdam
1600	Latin	Bertius	Claesz	Amsterdam
c. 1600	French	de la Haye	Claesz	The Hague
<b>1602<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>French</b>	de la Haye	Claesz	Leiden
<b>1602/03<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Latin</b>	Bertius	Claesz	Amsterdam
1606	Latin	Bertius	Claesz	Amsterdam
c. 1609 <sup>c</sup>	<b>French</b>	de la Haye	Laurentz	Frankfurt
1609	Dutch	Viverius	Claesz	Amsterdam
1612	German	Bertius	Laurentz	Frankfurt
<b>1649</b>	<b>Latin</b>	(no text)	Visscher	Amsterdam
1650 <sup>d</sup>	German	Bertius	Janssonius	Amsterdam



1.o. Langenes/Bertius, first map of Norway alone, 1602/03 Latin edition, state 1.



1.oa. Detail of first map of Norway alone, 1602 French edition (state 1).



1.ob. Detail of first map of Norway alone, c. 1609 French edition (state 1).



1.1. *Norwegia* from 1649 Latin edition, state 2.

- NOTES TO TABLE:
- a. The title page to this edition appears both with and without a date. Compare fig. 1.TP1, *infra*, with the dated title page illustrated on p. 402 of van der Krogt, comp., *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*, vol. IIIA.
  - b. In copies of this edition, "M.D.CII." is printed on the letterpress title page, and "1603" appears on the engraved title page.
  - c. This edition is undated. See van der Krogt, comp., *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*, vol. IIIA, p. 408, for explanation why "the date of this work is 1609 or later."
  - d. The 1650 edition is identical to the German one of 1612 except for the title page. Van der Krogt, comp., *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*, vol. IIIA, p. 441.

Most of the editions without the map of Norway have three maps that include some part of the country. *Septentrionalum regionū descrip.*, the most comprehensive geographically (fig. 1.Sept), is analogous to the map of the region published in Abraham Ortelius's pathbreaking atlas of 1570. *Nortcaep* gives primacy to Norway and Sweden but shows significant parts of Finland and Denmark (fig. 1.Nort). *Dania* includes Denmark, much of southern Sweden, and a bit of southern Norway (fig. 1.Den). The maps, engraved by brothers-in-law Jodocus Hondius and Pieter van den Keere (Kaerius), are visually appealing, and, although lacking the information content and decorative possibilities of larger maps, include quite a bit of detail for their size.

*Norwegia* manifests these characteristics. It depicts the entire south of the country (including Bahus) and extends in the north to Stegh (Steigen). Asko, Askerhuit, and Anslou are all denoted near what is intended to be the Oslo Fjord. Dronten is shown relatively near the coast, but Trunthem is shown near the end of a fjord that practically cuts the country in half. Among the coastal towns are Kongsberg (almost certainly a printing error for Tønsberg), Lidher (Lier), Skidden (Skien), Merdou (Merdøy), and Fleckeror. Note that the map has no latitude or longitude markings.

There are two states of this first map of Norway; all four printings of the first state are distinguishable. In the Latin edition of 1602, the map is on page 294 and has Latin text above it (fig. 1.o). Although *Norwegia* appears on page 299 in both French editions, typographical variations differentiate the printings. For example, in the one of 1602, the heading above the map reads "Norwegue." (fig. 1.oa) while in the later edition a double "v" is substituted for the "w": "Norvvegue." (fig. 1.ob). In the text on the reverse (i.e., on page 300), letters printed "-ent" or "-emp" in five words in 1602 appear as "-ēt" and "-ēp," respectively, in c. 1609:

LINE	1602	c. 1609
1	commencement	commencemēt
2	craignent	craignēt
5	s'enfuyent	s'enfuyēt
15	temps	tēps
21	d'Occident	d'Occidēt



1.Sept. Barent Langenes map of Scandinavia, 1598 (1649, state 2).



1.Nort. Barent Langenes *Nortcaep* map, 1598 (1649, state 3).



1.Den. Barent Langenes map of Denmark, 1598 (1649, state 3).

The fourth variant of state 1 has no printed text, either above the map or on the reverse. The only example I have seen is in a copy of the 1612 German edition, where it is inserted before the *Nortcaep* map on page 355. Since the map of Norway is generally *not* found in the German printings,<sup>2</sup> I can only conjecture that the seller or the buyer decided to make this particular copy "more complete." This hypothesis seems especially valid for the two essentially identical German editions, in which a second copy of *Nortcaep* is substituted (probably mistakenly) for the general map of Scandinavia.<sup>3</sup>

The map of Norway exists in a further state found only in the atlas republished in 1649 by Claes Jansz. Visscher as *Tabularum Geographarum Contractarum*. State 2 of *Norwegia* is defined and identified by the presence of a small letter and number designation in the lower right corner: "a.17" (fig. 1.1). Otherwise, it is identical to state 1, including the absence of latitude or longitude markings. There is no title above the map and no text on the reverse. The 1649 edition is unusual in several respects, one of which is that it contains all four maps showing some or all of Norway.<sup>4</sup> Classifying the edition as a Latin one is based solely on its title. Although *Tabularum Geographarum Contractarum* is basically a Langenes-Bertius atlas, it includes more than twenty maps attributed to Visscher and over forty engraved by Benjamin Wright, who was active around 1600.

The states and printings of *Norwegia* may be summarized as follows:

STATE 1:

- Latin 1602: on p. 294, Latin text above map (fig. 1.o)
- French 1602: on p. 299, "Norwegue" spelled with a "w" (fig. 1.oa)
- French c. 1609: on p. 299, "Norvvegue" spelled with double "vv" (fig. 1.ob)
- German 1612: anomaly, no text above map or on reverse

STATE 2:

- Latin 1649 only: small "a.17" printed at the lower right corner (fig. 1.1)

The infrequent inclusion of *Norwegia* in the Langenes-Bertius atlases taken in conjunction with the appearance of related Scandinavia maps raises several questions, most obviously "When was the map actually prepared" and "Why was it used in so few editions?" Stylistic and textual analyses suggest the following hypotheses:

- the map of Norway was prepared contemporaneously with the other maps used in the first Langenes atlas edition of 1598;
- *Norwegia* was not used then as its geographical content was redundant with respect to other included maps;
- the insertions of the map of Norway in subsequent editions were mistakes, possibly resulting in part from confusing language in the text of the atlas.

In regard to the first conjecture, *Norwegia* shares a characteristic of the Langenes maps issued in 1598 that was altered for the edition a year later. Specifically, the maps of the first edition lack markings for latitudes together with some latitude numbers. These were introduced in 1599 and appear in subsequent printings.

As fig. 1.o reveals, these features are absent on the map of Norway. Moreover, they are never present in the editions in which it does appear, all of which postdate 1599. Even in the peculiar Latin edition of 1649, although *Norwegia* appears in a second state (fig. 1.1), it still does not contain latitude markings or numbers—in contrast to the other maps of Scandinavia in this atlas (see figs. 1.Den, 1.Nort, and 1.Sept). Thus, the map of Norway seems never to have been modified in a manner that would indicate an intention to use it subsequently.

Examination of the text accompanying the maps of Scandinavia supports the second conjecture even more strongly than does the visual evidence. In the Dutch text of 1598 (copied for the next printing in 1599), the heading of the atlas text section that contains the general map of Scandinavia is "Beschryvinghe van Noorweghen" (Description of Norway), and the word printed at the top of the page with "*Septentrionalum regionū descrip.*" is "Noorweghen."

The French editions share these features. The first

French edition of c. 1600 translated (albeit with some errors) the original 1598/99 Dutch “Description of Norway” section, which then appeared unaltered in the later 1602 and c. 1609 French editions. Thus, as in the Dutch editions, the heading of the section is titled “Description of Norway,” and the word appearing above the related map is “Norwegue” (see the table on page 14).

The beginning of the French version of “Description of Norway,” which pertains to Norway, follows in English translation.<sup>5</sup> In the very first sentence, the author explains to the contemporary reader—and to those 400 years later—why he has given the name “Norway” to the *general map of the entire northern region*, that is to the map *Septentrionalum regionū descrip.* In other words, even though the first separate portrayal of Norway appears in an early French edition of the Langenes-Bertius atlas, the text of the atlas neither refers to nor indicates any intention to include such a map.

### “Description of Norway”

Although Norway is a distinct kingdom, separate from Sweden and Gotland, we have nevertheless given this name to the general map of the entire northern region: in part because the Kingdom of Norway is better known, and by this name one understands the rest of the Nordic countries, and by the same means the other kingdoms mentioned above are also understood to be included in this one. Past historians were little able to speak of this country, and those who write of it call it *Scandie* or Scandinavia, Baltia & Basilia; indeed, they call it another world on account of its size and of how many different kinds of people live there.

The kingdom of Norway flourished greatly in former times, and reigned over the Danes and the other islands of the Western<sup>a</sup> Sea; during this time it was governed by hereditary kings, but when the lords and nobles wished that control over the country be given to someone chosen for that end, the kingdom went into decline, for every man, to the extent that he had wealth or was well connected, aspired to this power. This ambition was the reason why, with Norway in a state of discord, the Danes easily made themselves lords of the country, seized the kingdom, and transferred it to the crown of Denmark. The Danes have since this time kept the inhabitants of Norway so tightly reined in that they have not been able to aspire to any change of condition; they have not even been permitted to rebuild their houses and

dwellings, which were formerly very magnificent and luxurious. Their commerce takes place only with the consent of the King of Denmark: without it, they are allowed to undertake nothing. What’s more, all their riches are ceded to the Danes, who view them not as subjects, but as slaves.

From Norway comes the fish that they call *Berger vis* or *Stock vis*, that is, wooden fish—because it is dried so thoroughly in the wind and the cold that it is as dry as wood. The best catch of this fish happens in January, because the cold at that time is so bitter and suited to dry them. The catch at other times is not as good, but spoils quite soon.

Norway is separated from Sweden by vast and high mountains, always covered in snow, inaccessible except where roads have been made for traveling from one kingdom to the other. There are many castles, cities, and villages in Norway. Among others, the castle of Warth is a stronghold, and has a garrison out of fear of the Lapps. There is also the city Matkur, the castle of Reon, the city of Nidaros or Trondheim, which is the capital; Bergen, an episcopal city; Stavanger, a diocese; Hungsperch, a castle; the city of Saltzbourg; and another strong castle, called Bahus, situated on the northern coast where the river of Tolheure comes to join the sea.

On the eastern<sup>b</sup> coast of Norway, there are most horrible sea monsters, especially the many whales that appear at the beginning of the year, a good one hundred cubits long. The sailors fear and dread them greatly, because they so very often overturn ships and their crews, that in order to avoid this danger, the sailors have castoreum,<sup>c</sup> which they dissolve in water and throw into the sea; the whales, who can’t stand this odor, take flight and plunge to the bottom of the sea. There is also in this land a little animal named the lemming, similar to a rat, except that it is four feet long,<sup>d</sup> its coat is a different color, and it is believed that these animals fall from the sky when it thunders; they eat only grass, like grasshoppers, and die at a certain time, and then the air is so much infected with their stink that it engenders and causes many illnesses, principally some kind of all too awful sickness, and a jaundice, by which the inhabitants are extremely tormented.

There is also a pond called Mos [Mjøsa], where one sometimes sees a serpent of great size, and when it appears, it is a sign (according to the opinion of those who live in the area) of some signal change that will happen to the Kingdom. This Serpent appeared in the year 1522 above the water and was all wound in a circle, and insofar as one could tell from a distance was a good 50 cubits long; a short time afterwards, King Christian [II] was run out of the kingdom [in 1523]. Out of Norway, Denmark, Friesland, etc. came those peoples who ravaged and pillaged their way across all of Christendom, doing much damage, until they finally were defeated in Normandy, which still today bears

the name of this nation. Some are of the opinion that the Longobards [or Lombards] also came from the land where Norway is today. Du Bartas, however, says that they came from Scania or *Scoonlandie*, which is part of Denmark, which we have described above.<sup>e</sup>

### NOTES TO TRANSLATION

A. Although the French is “la Mer Occidentale,” the Western Sea, this must be an error by the French writer-translator; the Dutch has “Oost Zee.”

B. Although the French is “d’Orient,” eastern, this must be an error by the French writer-translator, as the Dutch has “Westersche” in both the 1599 and 1609 texts. It is also “western” in the corresponding Latin and German passages.

C. Secretion from beaver glands.

D. The Latin text, which the German follows, is clear and simple: “quadrupes est, foricis magnitudine,” a quadruped the size of a shrew. The Dutch and French versions describe the lemming as “four feet long” rather than “four-footed.”

E. The reference is to Du Bartas’s poem “*La Seconde Sepmaine, Deuxième Jour, Les Colonies*” (*The Second Week, Second Day, The Colonies*), ll. 171–172: “Tout tel fut le Lombard qui, nay dedans Schonland,/Saisist la Livonie, et de là Rugiland” (in *The Works of Guillaume De Salluste Sieur Du Bartas*, ed. Urban Tigner Holmes, Jr., John Coriden Lyons, and Robert White Linker [Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1940], vol. 3, p. 150). William Lisle’s 1598 English translation renders “Schonland” as “Schonerland,” and Joshua Sylvester’s better known translation of the lines reads: “Such was the Lombard, who in *Schonland* nurst,/On *Rugeland* and *Liunia* seized first.”

As summarized in the table at the top of the next page,<sup>6</sup> the *Septentrionalum* map, present in the first French edition of c. 1600, has been replaced by the *Norwegia* map in the later French editions. Christopher Guyot published the 1602 atlas, titled *Thresor de Chartes*, for Corneille Nicolas (Claesz), and Matthias Becker printed the c. 1609 edition for Henry Laurentz. The respective title pages are illustrated as figs. 1.TP1 and 1.TP2 (see notes a and c to the table on page 9 regarding the dating of the editions).

The placement, order, and title headings of *Septentrionalum* and *Nortcaep* in the first, c. 1600 French edition



1.TP1. Title page, 1602 French edition of *Thresor de Chartes*.



1.TP2. Title page, 1609 French edition of *Thresor de Chartes*.

faithfully and appropriately copy the Dutch prototype. Why a change was made in the next edition (and retained in c. 1609) is unclear. Reference to the corresponding text explains that the use of the title “Norwegue” is correct; the error lies in having substituted the map of Norway for *Septentrionalum*. It seems entirely plausible that the worker responsible for setting up the pages of the atlas would not bother reading all of the text but, having seen a section titled “Description of Norway,” would look for a map of Norway to insert in it.

FRENCH EDITIONS OF C. 1600, 1602, AND C. 1609			
Date	<i>Septentrionalum</i>	<i>Norwegia</i>	<i>Nortcaep</i>
c. 1600	Norvvegue 283, none		Noort Caep. 295, T 4
1602		Norwegue. 299, none	Noort Caep. 309, V 3
c. 1609		Norvvegue. 299, none	Noort Caep. 309, V 3

The introduction of *Norwegia* into the second Latin edition in place of *Nortcaep*, followed by the reversal of this substitution in the following Latin printing, defies logical explanation (see the table below and note 6). Some insight might be gleaned from the background of the Latin issues:

The text [for the Latin edition] by Bertius is entirely different from the text by the “unknown” original author. Bertius wrote a new geographical treatise on the whole world, for which the maps serve as illustrations. This is contrary to the first editions of 1598 and 1599, where the text explained the maps. At the end, Bertius refers to Ptolemy’s *Geographia*, comparing his chapters with the books of Ptolemy.

In the first edition (1600), the order of the maps is nearly the same as in the editions of 1598 and 1599. Starting with the second edition, the order was completely changed to fit in with the classical order of maps in Ptolemy’s *Geographia*.<sup>7</sup>

In his rewrite, Bertius altered the heading of the section for the general map of Scandinavia to read “Descrip-

tion of Norway and Sweden.” Significantly, the considerably condensed text omits the rationale for applying the name “Norway” to this map and begins by simply noting that Norway is a northern region.<sup>8</sup> Notwithstanding the revised language, Bertius followed the Dutch model in the placement and order of the *Septentrionalum* and *Nortcaep* maps in the 1600 Latin edition. Similarly, the heading “DESCRIPTIO NORWEGIÆ ET SWETIÆ” above the former is consistent with the section heading of the corresponding text.

For the 1602/03 printing, rearranging the maps of the north into the classical order of Ptolemy’s *Geographia* would require some scholarly judgment, as this part of the world was not part of Ptolemy’s world. The omission of explanatory text only compounded the difficulty; arguably applying the 1600 headings to the maps chosen in 1602/03 is reasonable in the absence of the textual context provided by the more precise Dutch/French versions.

The introduction of the map of Norway in the second Latin edition seems to be an anomaly or simply a mistake. First, as discussed above, it follows neither the Dutch prototype nor the first Latin edition, nor does it fit into the

LATIN EDITIONS OF 1600, 1602/03, 1606, AND 1649			
DATE	<i>Septentrionalum</i>	<i>Norwegia</i>	<i>Nortcaep</i>
1600	DESCRIPTIO NORWEGIÆ ET SWETIÆ. 281, S5		DESCRIPTIO HYPERBOREORVM. 290, {T}
1602/03	DESCRIPTIO HYPERBOREORVM. 48, none	DESCRIPTIO NORWEGIÆ ET SVECIÆ. 294, {T 3}	refer to text
1606	DESCRIPTIO NORWEGIÆ ET SVECIÆ. 294, {T 3}		DESCRIPTIO HYPERBOREORVM. 48, none
1649	(no title) a.15, none	(no title) a.17, none	(no title) a.16, none

classical Ptolemaic ordering. Second, although the map of Norway, *Norwegia*, with the textual details noted, usually appears in the 1602/03 atlas, there are examples that do contain the *Nortcaep* map, with the same textual details.<sup>9</sup> Third, the reversions in the next, 1606, edition, suggest both a recognition of prior mistakes and uncertainty. *Norwegia* is removed; *Nortcaep* not only rejoins *Septentrionalum* as in 1600, but they again have the same headings consistent with the original Dutch editions. Confusingly, and probably mistakenly, their page positions in the atlas are reversed compared with the 1602/03 printing.

The unique appearance of state 2 of *Norwegia* in *Tabulum Geographarum Contractarum*, published by Claes Jansz. Visscher in 1649, was discussed above (see also note 4). Although this volume appears in the table of Latin editions because of (the language of) its title page and the predominance of Langenes-Bertius maps, its printing history has little connection to the editions of 1600, 1602/03, and 1606, which are closely related.

#### REFERENCES:

Ginsberg, *Printed Maps of Scandinavia*, Entries 43–45, pp. 162–168  
van der Krogt, comp., *Koeman’s Atlantes Neerlandici*, vol. IIIA, pp. 373–441

#### COLLECTORS’ NOTE: Scarce

In general, Langenes-Bertius maps appear periodically, typically when an incomplete book is broken. The map of Norway, which appeared in only 4 of the 12 editions of the atlas, is scarce.

#### NOTES

1. Petrus Bertius is also associated with miniature atlases published by Jodocus Hondius, Jr., in 1616 and 1618 in Latin and French. These were not reissues of the Langenes-Bertius series, however, but constituted an enlarged edition with newly engraved plates. The maps are about 1 cm longer in height and width, and the contents differ from those in the Langenes atlases. For an overview of the printing history of the Langenes-Bertius atlases, see Peter van der Krogt, comp., *Koeman’s Atlantes Neerlandici*, new ed., 3 vols. to date (‘t Goy-Houten,

the Netherlands, 1997–), vol. IIIA, pp. 373–375.

2. I have not found the map *Norwegia* in any of the other 1612 or 1650 German editions of the atlas that I have examined.

3. See William B. Ginsberg, *Printed Maps of Scandinavia and the Arctic, 1482–1601* (New York, 2006), pp. 166–167.

4. For *Septentrionalum*, *Nortcaep*, and *Dania*, the letter and number designations are “a.15,” “a.16,” and “a.20,” respectively. Exemplars of these maps are illustrated in figs. 1.Sept, 1.Nort, and 1.Den. See also Ginsberg, *Printed Maps of Scandinavia*, pp. 165–166.

5. See Appendix 1 for a facing-page translation into English of the complete section of the French text corresponding to the general map of the northern regions.

6. In the table, the first line gives the title printed above the map. The next shows the page number on which the map appears (printed at the top, with the title of the map), followed by the signature (printed below the map). The word “none” indicates that there is no signature on that page. If the entry for the signature is shown in braces, it means that the signature appears on the reverse of the map.

7. Van der Krogt, comp., *Koeman’s Atlantes Neerlandici*, IIIA, p. 409.

8. Bertius’s text for the section on Scandinavia in the 1600 Latin edition is replicated in those of 1602/03 and 1606. It was translated for the 1612 German edition (and the 1650 printing is identical). To complete the picture, although the corresponding text in the 1609 Dutch edition (now titled *Hand-boeck of Cort begriip der Caerten*) derives essentially from the original 1598/99 version, the author imported a few selected portions with new information from the Latin. See Appendix 2 for a translation of the 1609 Dutch text, annotated to show differences between it and the renderings in German, Latin, and French.

9. I have obtained relevant information about 17 1602/03 atlases, primarily through e-mail correspondence. The *Norwegia* map is in 14 of these; the *Nortcaep* map in 3. Regardless of which map appears, the printing characteristics above the map and on the reverse are the same.