The theory of Portuguese discovery of Australia claims that early Portuguese navigators were the first Europeans to sight Australia between 1521 and 1524, well before the arrival of Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon in 1606 on board the Duyfken who is generally considered to be the first European discoverer. This is based on the following elements: The Dieppe maps, a group of 16th-century French world maps, which depict a large landmass between Indonesia and Antarctica. Labelled as Java la Grande, this landmass was thought to be part of the unknown southern continent. The Portuguese were the first great European explorers. They travelled the world in search of wealth and fortune. Having discovered a way to Asia through the Cape of Good Hope, they ventured far and wide in search of spices which were worth their weight in gold back in Europe. At the heart of the term 'discovery' is the bringing to light new thoughts, ideas and facts. Europeans have frequently used the term 'discovery' in the context of their Age of Exploration when many explorers and adventurers set out from Europe in search of foreign lands and places. The reason the Portuguese explorers didn't publicise their discovery would have been that they were afraid that Australia might be in the Spanish half of the world so if Portugal told everyone about Australia, Spanish explorers would have every right to go to Australia and claim it for their own. Coincidently, the line comes out right through the middle of Australia. Provided that Java La Grande is referring to the coast of Australia, we have some evidence to support that Portuguese explorers went to Australia before anyone else did. This is because the Dieppe mapmakers used Portuguese sources and because of that, they have Portuguese inscriptions on the map.