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Novae Insulae XXVI Nova Tabula [1st Map of the continent of America]

Stock#: 28899
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1552
Place: Basle
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 13.25 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare 1552 Latin edition of Munster's map of America, the earliest map to show all of North and South America in a true continental form.

The first edition of Munster's map appeared in his *Geographia*, first published in 1540. However, it was the map's inclusion in the 1544 edition of Munster's *Cosmographia* that forever caused America to be the name of the New World, perpetuating Waldseemuller's choice of names in a popular and widely disseminated work.

Munster's map is the earliest map of all of America and the first to name the Pacific Ocean (Mare Pacificum). The depiction of North America is dominated by one of the most dramatic geographic misconceptions to be found on early maps—the so-called Sea of Verrazzano. The Pacific cuts deeply into North America so that the part of the coastline at this point is a narrow isthmus between two oceans. This was the result of Verrazzano mistaking the waters to the west of the Outer Banks, the long barrier islands along North Carolina as the Pacific. The division of the New World between Spain and Portugal is recognized on the map by the Castille and Leon flag planted in Puerto Rico, here called Sciana.

The map includes a host of firsts, too many to include in this description. Includes a very early appearance of the Straits of Magellan, along with his ship *Victoria* in the Pacific. Earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely legends, such as Marco Polo. The Yucatan Peninsula is shown as an Island. Lake Temistan empties into the Caribbean. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida.



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The present example is a Latin text edition of Burden's State 6. It is the only state to include the latitude and longitude bars outside of the map image and one of the rarest of all editions of the map.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning