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[Asia in the form of Pegasus]

Stock#: 10622f1
Map Maker: Bunting
Date: 1588
Place: Prague
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A fascinating cartographic curiosity, which appeared in Protestant theologian Heinrich Bunting's *Itinerarium Sacra Scripturae*, or *Travels According to the Scriptures*, first published in 1581. The work contained three maps of pure fantasy: the World in the form of a cloverleaf, Europe as a robed female figure, and Asia as Pegasus, the mythical winged horse. The horse is drawn in an anatomically correct fashion, such that the shape of Asia has been modified, with the Caspian Sea appearing horizontally between the wings and the saddle, and modern India is the off hind leg. First issued as a wood block engraving, this example derives from the rare Prague edition, where the wood blocks have been replaced by copperplate engravings. The map also includes substantially more embellishment than the wood block editions. The embellishments include an ornate coat of arms and extra sailing ships and sea creatures. The fine details of the engraving are also substantially improved, making for a gorgeous, striking crisp image. The image of Asia as Pegasus derives from the story of Bellerophon, his rider, which took place largely in Asia. A striking example of this very rare copperplate edition.

Detailed Condition: