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Charta Cosmographica, Cum Ventorum Propria Natura et Operatione

Stock#: 32460
Map Maker: Apian
Date: 1553 circa
Place: Antwerp
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 11 x 7.25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The earliest surviving example of Gemma Frisius' larger cordiform map of the world, published in 1540, which first appeared in the 1544 in Apian's *Cosmographia*.

The map is one of the earliest obtainable world maps not based upon the works of Ptolemy. North America is depicted as a narrow stretch of land extending almost eastwards. Cuba and Hispaniola are shown as huge islands and the Mountains of the Moon considered the source of the River Nile. The map includes a Northwest passage, above which is a fascinating Asian projection. North America, called Baccalarum for its Cod fisheries. The narrow Straits of Magellan represent the only passage between South America and an understated Southern Continent. A 'truncated' cordiform projection is used which prevents the south polar regions being represented.

The map is bordered by signs of the zodiac and the Ptolemaic climatic zones. Zeus and Mars, wearing the coats of arms of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, are shown atop the map while wind-heads at the south represent the traditional believed plague-bearing nature of those winds. The map is highly decorative but also an important milestone in the history of cartography as it is one of the earliest maps to show a representation of America, or the name itself.

During the 16th Century, the quest for geographical knowledge was primarily spurred on by trade. The great trading nations of Europe became leaders in the printing of maps. Because of its location connecting land routes to the east and southeast, Germany became one of the pre-eminent map centers. Peter Apian, also known by his Latin name Petrus Apianus, was professor of mathematics and was known as a great astronomer. These skills combined with his interest in geography led to the establishment of his own printing press in Landshut. Apian's textbook *Cosmographicus Liber* was first published in 1524. The fourth



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edition (1529) and later editions were edited by his pupil Gemma Frisius, who inserted his own world map in the 1545 publication.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling