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Tabula novarum insularum, quas Diversis respectibus Occidentales & Indianas uocant. [1st Map of the continent of America]

Stock#: 60943
Map Maker: Munster

Date: 1550 circa
Place: Basle
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.5 x 10.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Printed Map of the American Continent

Early edition of Sebastian 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 flags 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 on legends, such as Marco Polo. The Yucatan Peninsula

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is shown as an Island. Lake Temistan empties into the Caribbean. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida.

In the lower part of South America, the name "Regio gigantum" (land of giants) appears, a reference to Magellan's visit to the region. When Magellan encountered Tehuelche Indians n 1520 he became enthralled with their enormous feet. He called them “Patagones,” after Patagon, the dog-headed giant in a Spanish novel. The land soon became known as “Patagonia,” feeding the centuries-old myth that this was a land of giants.

A striking example of the map.

Detailed Condition: