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[First Map of the Continent of America] Die Neuwen Inseln / So hinder Hispanien gegen Orient ven dem land indie ligen

Stock#: 61629
Map Maker: Munster

Date: 1561
Place: Basle
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 13.5 x 10.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of the 1561 edition of Munster's map of America, the earliest map to show all of North and South America in a true continental form.

Munster's map of America is the earliest map to show all of North and South America in a true continental form. The first edition of the map appeared in Munster's 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 to show all of the continent 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 intov 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 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

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

Includes an early appearance of the Straits of Magellan, along with his ship Victoria in the Pacific. First appearance of Mare Pacificum on a map. Earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely on legend. The Yucatan is shown as an Island. Lake Temistan (unnamed in this state of the map) empties into the Caribbean. The mis-information provided by Verazanno is perpetuated. 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.

The present edition is from the 1561 German edition of Munster's Cosmographia, and can be distinguished from earlier examples by the following 3 factors:

1. Temistan is not shown (it appeared on the map from 1540 to 1552, but was removed on the 1554 and later editions and later re-added in 1572.
2. Panuco is named (removed in 1569).
3. The phrase "Nova Insula Atlantica. . . " appears below Novus Orbis in South America (changed from "ova Insula" to "Nova Insula in 1561.

Detailed Condition:
Several minor creases