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La Table des Isles neusues, lesquelles on appelle isles d'occident & d'Indie pour divers regardz (first map of the continent of America)

Stock#: 65824
Map Maker: Munster

Date: 1552
Place: Basel
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.5 x 10.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Map of The American Continent (and Japan)

Striking example of the 1552 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 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 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. It shows the earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely on legends, such as Marco Polo. The

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Yucatan Peninsula is shown as an Island. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida. First appearance of Mare Pacificum on a map. Lake Temistan (unnamed in this state of the map) empties into the Caribbean. The mis-information provided by Verazanno is perpetuated.

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 first French edition of Munster's *Cosmographia*, and can be distinguished from other later French editions by the presence of the place name "Temistan" in Central America and the title of the map.

A seminal map for American Collectors.

Detailed Condition: