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Geographiae Claudii Ptolemaei Alexandrini

Stock#: 68363
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1552
Place: Basel
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 9 x 13 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

With the Rare Gridded Borders on the Modern Maps. In a Beautiful Contemporary Binding.

This is the fourth and last of Sebastian Munster's editions of the Geographia based on Pirckheimer's translation with an additional treatise, and enlarged indices by Konrad Wolffhart, generally known as Lycosthenes. The modern world map is from a new block and bears the monogram of the engraver David Kandel in the lower left-hand corner (Shirley, Mapping of the World 92).

Munster's Map of the Americas

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 continents 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.



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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. The earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely legends, such as Marco Polo. The Yucatan Peninsula is shown as an Island. Lake Temistan empties into the Caribbean. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida. The misinformation provided by Verazanno is perpetuated. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida.

Provenance

Johann Sigismundus Ulrici, ("Ex Bibliotheca Waltheriana. Libris Suis adtribuit Johannes Sigismundus Ulrici, Architectus"), manuscript annotation to title; Samuel Walther, manuscript annotations, including to pastedowns, blanks and recto of front free endpaper; Jules Remy, ownership inscription to verso of front free endpaper

Detailed Condition:

Small folio (310 x 202mm.). Contemporary half pigskin over wood boards, catches (only one clasp remaining). Woodcut portrait of Ptolemy on verso of title, 52 (of 54) double-page woodcut mapsheets (lacking 33 and 34), all on guards, woodcut device on verso of last leaf. (Early annotations in red ink and to map 37, minor worming, a few minor tears or stains, left leaf of map 5 becoming detached.)