



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Rare Czech Edition!) [Asia Secunda Pars Terrae in Forma Pegasi] [Asia in the Form of Pegasus]

Stock#: 95830
Map Maker: Bunting
Date: 1592
Place: Prague
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.5 x 9.5 inches
Price: \$ 3,600.00



Description:

Rare Czech Copperplate Edition.

Nice example of Bunting's map of Asia in the shape of the mythical winged horse Pegasus.

The horse is drawn fairly realistically, with a good deal of imagination required to view the map. The head represents Asia Minor, with the mouth at Istanbul. The wings portray Central Asia and Siberia. The Caspian Sea appears horizontally between the wings and the saddle. Persia is delineated on the horse's blanket, with the forelegs forming Arabia. The hind legs represent the Indian and Malay Peninsulas.

The choice to depict Asia on Pegasus may have several interpretations. First, it underscores the allure and mystery associated with Asia, a land of riches, spices, and ancient civilizations, akin to the celestial and divine aura of Pegasus. Second, it signifies the soaring ambitions of European explorers and traders during the Age of Exploration, reaching out to the furthest corners of Asia. Just as Pegasus soared in myths, explorers ventured into uncharted territories.

The map is among the earliest representations of a landmass in the form of an animal (or human).

Plates and Blocks

Bunting published this map in his *Itinerarium*, an important religious treatise on biblical geography. The book was illustrated with maps from its first edition in 1581, published in Helmsdadt, but the present map made its first appearance in the 1587 Wittenberg edition.



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Rare Czech Edition!) [Asia Secunda Pars Terrae in Forma Pegasi] [Asia in the Form of Pegasus]

While the woodblock edition of the map continued to be published in different formats throughout the 16th, 17th, and even 18th centuries, a few rare editions of the book used a copperplate engraving to illustrate the map. These include the 1592 Prague edition and the 1646 Brunswick editions.

Both copperplate editions can be easily recognized from the lack of the wave pattern present on the woodblock edition. The Czech edition can be recognized from the Czech-language text on the verso (instead of Latin or German), as well as the presence of a coat of arms in the lower right corner on the map. The seas are also stippled in this edition. The Brunswick leaves the ocean blank and includes additional text below the map.

Detailed Condition:

Slight restoration to centerfold in lower margin. Minor soiling.