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America noviter delineata

Stock#: 37222
Map Maker: Cloppenburg
Date: 1630 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10 x 7.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking Seventeenth-Century Map of the Americas with Mythical North Atlantic Islands

Fine example of Cloppenburg's map of the American continents.

The map encompasses both North and South America, although North America continues into the neat line in the Arctic. South America ends with an unfinished Tierra del Fuego, suggesting that it might lead to more islands, or even a continent, farther south.

North America shows California as a peninsula that stretches nearly to Asia. The depiction of the East Coast of North America is packed with early colonial placenames, while the Great Lakes and Long Island are entirely omitted. Hudson's Bay is outlined but not completed, suggesting a Northwest Passage that just needed to be found.

South America is shown as exaggerated in size. It prominently displays the riverine networks of Rio de la Plata and the Amazon. There is also a large lake in the north of the continent, a reference to the mythical, gold-filled Lake Parime.

In central North America is a lake surrounded on one side by city symbols. These are the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola, which, like Lake Parime, supposedly led to gold. The cities included *Cibola* and *Gran Quivira*. In 1540, this idea, likely combined with various indigenous legends, led Francisco Vázquez de Coronado to embark on an (unsuccessful) expedition to find these mythical cities.

Also of interest are the northern Atlantic islands of Frisland and Brasil. Hy Brasil is an enduring Atlantic



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chimera emerging from Celtic folklore. It ranges on maps from just off the west coast of Ireland to the area around the Azores. The island was initially described as a rich paradise not unlike Atlantis; it emerged from the depths for a short period and then would disappear. It started to appear on portolan charts in the fourteenth century and continued to be a stalwart of maps and charts into the nineteenth century. The island was the subject of a fanciful pamphlet by Richard Head in 1675. Despite no accurate reports of its whereabouts, the island appeared on Admiralty charts and other reputable maps for centuries, usually in the latitude of 51°N and at a longitude of 17°W.

The waters are filled with large ship vignettes. There are also two sea monsters, so the ships would do well to navigate with care. In the lower left corner is simple, yet elegant, frame title cartouche.

States of the map

Cloppenburg's cartography is derived from the work of Henricus Hondius; while unsigned, it was likely engraved by Pieter Van Den Keere. It appeared in Cloppenburg's reduced edition of the Mercator-Hondius atlas, which was released in three editions in 1630, 1632, and 1636.

Then, the map disappeared for forty years, likely because it was bought out because it was competing with the full-size Mercator-Hondius atlas. It reappeared in the reduced size atlas of Jan Jansson van Waesberge, the son-in-law of Jan Janssonius, who had published the Mercator-Hondius atlas. The map was included with several other publications into the mid-eighteenth century and was last issued ca. 1738.

While interestingly reissued several times, the map only appeared in two known states. The first (1630) has no plate number engraved in the top right corner, while the second state (ca. 1738) has the number 259 in the top right. This is an example of the first state.

Detailed Condition: