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Novae Insulae XXVI Nova Tabula [Rare 2nd State of first map of America]

Stock#: 41680
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1544
Place: Basle
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.25 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of the rare second state 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 Munster's map appeared in his *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 of all 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. It includes a very early appearance of the Straits of Magellan, along with his ship *Victoria* in the Pacific, and the earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely on legends, such as Marco Polo. The Yucatan Peninsula is shown as an Island, and Lake Temistan empties into the Caribbean. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida.

The second state of the map is very rare. It includes the name "Novus" in North America and "Orbis" in South America (as with the first state of the map), but the name "Regio Gigantium" has been moved to just



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east of the large river in the southern part of South America (having previously appeared above the river in the first state). Later in 1544, the name Novus Orbis would be removed by Munster and the words "Die Nuw Welt" added.

Detailed Condition: