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Novae Insulae XVII Nova Tabula [First State!]

Stock#: 62809
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1542
Place: Basle
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 13.5 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Edition, Second Issue of the First Printed Map of the American Continent.

The first state, second issue 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 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. The map includes the earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely upon legends, such as Marco Polo. The Yucatan Peninsula is shown as an Island. Lake Temistan empties into the Caribbean. The map



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depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida.

The misinformation provided by Verrazzano is perpetuated.

A nearly flawless example, from the 1542 edition of Munster's *Geographia*, differing from the first state, only by the addition of the printer's device before the word "Novae" in the title, which is lacking in the 1540 edition. Beginning in 1544, the name "Regio Gigantum" was moved down and to the east of the small river. In first state, it is above the small unnamed river.

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 in 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 first state of the map is rare on the market. A seminal map for American collectors.

Detailed Condition:

Some scattered very light toning.