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[Early Photographic Facsimile] Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Iuxta Neotericorum Traditiones Descriptio...

Stock#: 67277
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1564 (but circa 1900)
Place: Antwerp
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 22 x 13 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Abraham Ortelius's First Map and the Basis for De Jode's Cordiform World Map. Here Reproduced for Edward Luther Stevenson's Collection of Early World Map Facsimiles.

Attractive early sepia-tone photographic facsimile of Abraham Ortelius's cordiform world map, his first cartographic production.

Shirley (114) provides the following commentary of Ortelius's wall map:

This magnificent eight-sheet world map is not nearly as well-known as it deserves to be. It is the first cartographical production of Abraham Ortelius, by then aged 37 and an established map salesman in Antwerp along with his older rival Gerard de Jade whose publication imprint appears on the map. The copper engraving is of a high standard and indicative of the new school of map making in the Low Countries that was to surpass the Italians over the next 150 years.

Ortelius' map is on a cordiform projection which is cut off at the bottom where a large austral continent is depicted. There is a border of clouds and twelve interesting windheads - cherubs, old men, and monkeys - sporting a variety of headgear. The names of the winds are printed in Latin, Italian and Dutch. In the lower left-hand corner is a panel of text describing the sources of gold, silver, ~precious stones and spices; to the right are two large birds-eye views of Cusco and Mexico City. Some of the details on the map - cannibals in South America, rhinoceroses in Africa and India, a camel train in Tartary - hark back to Waldseemüller. Ortelius has added a number of fully-rigged sailing vessels of the time; also spirited sea monsters, flying fish, serpents, and even a winged turtle just off Greenland.



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The geographical form of Ortelius' map was at one time believed to follow Gastaldi's world map of c. 1561 incorporating his latest view regarding the separation of America and Asia. However, Ortelius' North America is quite different in outline from Gastaldi and his followers Zaltieri (1566) and Camocio (1567). It seems most likely that Ortelius' source was Mercator's large globe of 1541, although the curious assemblage of large islands called Canada . . . Terra Nova . . . Labrador stretching out across the North Atlantic is a complete misreading of the actual approaches to Canada and the St. Lawrence. Africa and Asia are shown in considerable detail, both being based on recent large-scale works by Gastaldi. The old fortress town of Zimbabwe (marked Symbaoe) is shown for the first time following its discovery by the Portuguese. The East Indies are much more accurately delineated than on other contemporary maps.

Although Plantin's records show that Ortelius' map was widely circulated and that a number of copies reached England, only three copies have survived. These are in the British Library, the Maritime Museum, Rotterdam, and the University Library, Basle. Ortelius' design was copied by De Jode in his smaller cordiform map of 1571 and by Humphrey Gilbert in his much simplified world map of 1576; but apart from these two examples the map's influence was overtaken by Mercator's great new chart of 1569, itself widely disseminated through Ortelius' oval rendering in his Theatrum from 1570 onwards.

Detailed Condition:

Dissected in eight sections and mounted on linen.