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(Europe in the Shape of a Queen) Europa Prima Pars Terrae In Forma Virginis . . .

Stock#: 73197
Map Maker: Bunting
Date: 1587 circa
Place: Wittenberg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 9.5 inches
Price: \$ 2,700.00



Description:

Europe in the Form of a Queen

Fine example of Bunting's map showing Europe in the form of a queen.

Protestant theologian Heinrich Bunting's map showing Europe as a queen is one of the most sought after anthropomorphic maps of the 16th Century. The depiction of Europe as a queen began in the 14th Century. Europe was named for princess Europa (Daughter of Phoenicia), who had been carried off and raped by Zeus. The earliest depiction of Europe as a woman is believed to be by the 14th Century Pavian Cleric Opicinus de Canistris for the papal court, then at Avignon. The woman represents the Mother Church, who is being seduced from the true path.

In 1537 the Tirolese cartographer Johann Putsch celebrated the Hapsburg rule over Europe by presenting a placid "Europa Regina" wearing Charles V's Spain as a crown and Ferdinand's Austria as a medal at her waist, representing the triumph of the Hapsburgs. The queen's crown (Spain), orb (Sicily), and heart (Bohemia), form a triangle that directs the viewer's eye away from eastern Europe toward the West. The British Isles are a shapeless blob perched near her shoulder. Her skirt is composed of the Baltics and Greece; Turkey and Russia are beneath her feet. Later editions of Europe as a queen were issued by Sebastian Münster, Heinrich Bunting, and Matthias Quad.

Plates and Editions

Bunting published this map in his *Itinerarium*, an important religious treatise on biblical geography. The



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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.

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 winged and feathered coat of arms in the lower right of the map. The seas are also stippled in this edition.
- The Brunswick leaves the ocean blank and includes a coat of arms in the lower left that is encircled with a wreath.

Detailed Condition: