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[United Kingdom] Tabula Prima Europae

Stock#: 78537
Map Maker: Waldseemüller
Date: 1520
Place: Strasbourg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 23 x 16 inches
Price: \$ 6,750.00



Description:

One of the Earliest Obtainable Maps of the British Isles

Nice example of Martin Waldseemüller's map of the British Isles, from the 1520 edition of Waldseemüller's *Geographie Opus Novissima*.

The map famously shows Ptolemy's depiction of the British Isles (considered the 'edge of the world' in Ptolemy's time), with an elongated Scotland on an east-west orientation. The southwestern portion of England (Cornwall) also appears elongated. Ireland, located too far north, also shows an elongated south-west.

Martin Waldseemüller, a highly accomplished scholar of geography, merged the science of mapmaking and the art of printing in his *Geographia* (published in 1513 and 1520), one of the most groundbreaking documents in the history of cartography. He intended this atlas as a new edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*, but included the addition of 20 modern maps which were not based upon the tradition of Ptolemy. Waldseemüller's use of a quadratic plane projection, was also a noteworthy advance.

Martin Waldseemüller (1470-1520) was born in Wolfenweiler and studied at the University of Freiburg. On April 25, 1507, as a member of the Gymnasium Vosagense at Saint Diey in the duchy of Lorraine, he produced a globular world map and a large 12-panel world wall map (*Universalis Cosmographia*) both bearing the first use of the name "America". The globular and wall maps were accompanied by a book *Cosmographiae Introductio*, an introduction to cosmography. The book, first printed in the city of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, includes in its second part, a translation to Latin of the *Quattuor Americi Vespuccij navigationes* (Four Voyages of Amerigo Vespucci), which is apparently a letter written by Amerigo



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Vespucci, although some historians consider it to have been a forgery written by its supposed recipient in Italy. In chapter nine of the first part of the *Cosmographiae Introductio*, written by Mat(t)hias Ringmann, it is explained why the name America was proposed for the then New World.

In 1513 Waldseemüller appears to have had second thoughts about the name, probably due to contemporary protests about Vespucci's role in the discovery and naming of America, or just carefully waiting for the official discovery of the whole northwestern coast of what is now called North America, as separated from East Asia. In his *Geographia*, the continent is labelled simply Terra Incognita (unknown land). Despite the revision, 1,000 copies of the world maps had since been distributed, and the original suggestion took hold. While North America was still called Indies in documents for some time, it was eventually called America as well.

Detailed Condition:

Title written in pen in an earlier hand