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Geographiae Claudii Ptolemaei Alexandrini

Stock#: 90564
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1552
Place: Basel
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 9 x 13 inches
Price: \$ 27,500.00



Description:

With the Rare Graticulated Borders on the Modern Maps Only Seen in This Edition.

This is the fourth and last of Sebastian Munster's editions of the *Geographia* based on Pirckheimer's translation, with an additional treatise and enlarged indices by Konrad Wolffhart, generally known as Lycosthenes. The modern world map is from a new block and bears the monogram of the engraver David Kandel in the lower left-hand corner (Shirley, Mapping of the World 92).

Munster's Map of the Americas

Munster's map of America is 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 earliest map to show all of the continents 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 Spain and Portugal is recognized on the map by the Castille and Leon flag planted in Puerto Rico, here called Sciana.



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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 earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely legends, such as Marco Polo. The Yucatan Peninsula is shown as an Island. Lake Temistan empties into the Caribbean. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida. The misinformation provided by Verazanno is perpetuated. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida.

Provenance

Nicolai Lambert; "Ex Bibl Lambertina" in early ink on the title page.

Detailed Condition:

Small folio. Early (17th century?) limp vellum. 54 double-page woodcut maps. 107 leaves (of which three are blanks), 1-155, [156 blank], maps, 157-195 pages. Complete. (Bookblock somewhat shaken from binding and coming loose at the front hinge but still holding. Scattered minor foxing. Faint dampstain at the bottom edge. Title page remargined at the top edge, not affecting printed image. Otherwise unsophisticated.)