



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Presentation Copy) Fac-simile of the "Dutch Vespucci." Being the Celebrated Letter of Americus Vespucci to Laurentius de Medina. Describing his third voyage to America, in the Year 1501, for the King of Portugal... From the unique copy printed at Antwerp, 1506-1510, in the possession of John Carter Brown, of Providence [Van der nieuwer werelt oft landtscap].

Stock#: 95922
Map Maker: Vespucci
Date: 1874
Place: Providence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 5.5 x 8.75 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

One of 25 Copies

A privately printed facsimile edition of a unique surviving example of a Dutch edition of Vespucci, in the library of John Carter Brown. This facsimile edition itself is extremely rare, having been issued in a limited edition of 25 copies. The Dutch translation, probably made from Vorsterman's Latin edition, under the title *Van der nieuwer werelt oft landtscap*, was originally printed by Jan van Doesborch in 1506, 1507 or 1508.

The entry in Sabin for the original edition:

The text is divided into eleven chapters, each one except the last with a descriptive heading. The first, fifth and eleventh are without chapter numbers; Cap. vii and viii are misnumbered viii and vi, respectively. There are four engravings, two of them used twice, making six altogether. The first engraving (pages 1 and 12) is the pictorial triangle belonging to the eighth chapter, showing two naked South American Indians in one compartment on the perpendicular side, standing at right angles with three clothed Europeans in the other compartment on the horizontal side. The second engraving (page 2) illustrates the stormy voyage described in the second chapter by the picture of a man being thrown from a ship to a large fish with wide open mouth. The third engraving (pages 5 and 16) shows four naked Indians, male and female, to illustrate Chap. 4. The fourth engraving



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(page 8) represents a group of six Indians fighting with bows and arrows, illustrating Chap. 5. There are also figures of six stars (page 11) and three stars (page 13), each group lettered Canopus albus, to illustrate Chap. 7 (misnumbered viii). The heading of Chap. X would read in English, "How this navigator will undertake a fourth voyage yet with two ships built here in Holland, if God spares him." The eleventh chapter states that the book was translated from Italian into Latin, and from Latin into Dutch.

The type is similar to old English Black Letter, and is described by Proctor as Doesborch's no. 1, the size in which most of his books were printed, twenty lines measuring 97 mm. See Proctor's Jan van Doesborch, Printer at Antwerp, Bibliographical Society Monograph No. 2, London 1894, pages 9, 22, 43--44; Frederik Muller's Catalogue of Books on America, Amsterdam 1872, pages 5--7, no. 24, with facsimile of the first page; John Carter Brown Catalogue, vol. 1, 1875 edition, pages 44--47, and 1919 edition, page 48.

Rarity

Although well represented within institutional confines (14 copies per OCLC), this book is extremely rare in the market. Not a single example in RBH in the last 50 years.

Provenance.

The present example is a presentation copy inscribed by Mrs. John Carter Brown to prominent French doctor Théophile de Valcourt, author of *Cannes. Son Climat et ses Promenades* (1878).

Detailed Condition:

Octavo. Late 19th-century half red morocco and blue-grey boards by Antoine Chatelin, with his discreet binder's stamp on leather turn-in (inner front board). Raised spine bands. Gilt device in four of the spine compartments. Touch of rubbing to binding extremities and corner tips, but very nice indeed. Minor foxing on title page and preliminary leaves. Overall quite clean and very good. Presentation copy, inscribed by Mrs. John Carter Brown to Monsieur le Docteur de Valcourt, with the compliments of Mrs. John Carter Brown, Cannes. December 1874." With neat pencil marginalia (presumably in Valcourt's hand) to preface text. 4 pages plus [16] pages.