



16th century woodcut map of the world

MUNSTER, Sebastian.
 Typus Orbis Universalis.

Basle, Henri Petri, c.1552, Latin text edition. Coloured woodcut. Printed area 265 x 380mm.

£3,200

Munster's 'modern' map of the world, on an oval projection, surrounded by windheads and with sea-monsters filling the oceans, published in his version of Ptolemy's 'Geographia'. Of particular interest is the mapping of America, only fifty years after Columbus: although the basic shape of both North and South is recognisable, there are several mistaken assumptions: 'Terra Florida' is connected to the north-east by only a narrow isthmus, based on Verrazzano's mistaken belief that Chesapeake Bay was the Indian Ocean. Greenland is joined to Scandinavia; and the west coast appears as 'Temistitian', the general name for Mexico, on the far right of the map. In the east, 'Zanzibar', 'Taprobana' and 'Java' are all marked, and 'Zipangu' (Japan) also appears, having been visited by Europeans for the first time ten years before. This is an example of the second woodblock world that was cut for the 'Cosmographia' and 'Geographia', and the initials of the wood engraver, David Kandel, can be seen in the bottom left corner.

SHIRLEY: World 92.

Stock ID :22958