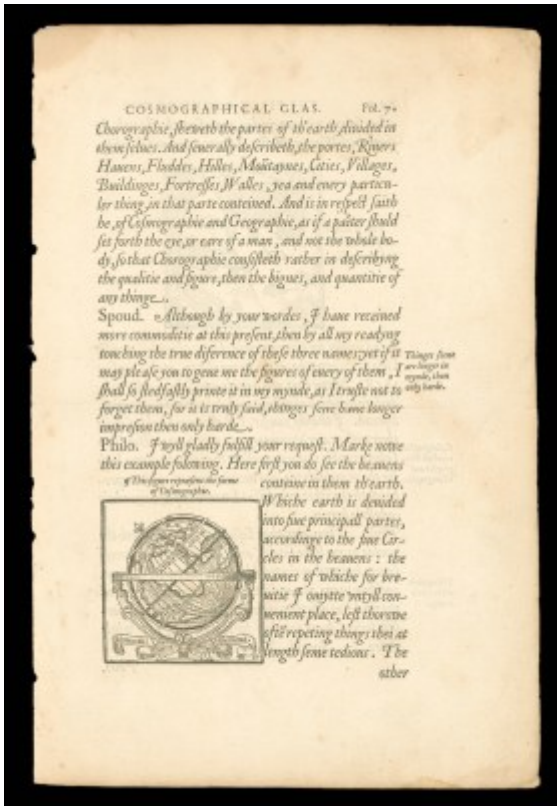

COSMOGRAPHICAL GLAS. Fol. 7.

Chorographie, sheweth the partes of th'earth, diuided in them selues. And seuerally describeth, the portes, Riuers Hauens, Fluddes, Hilles, Mountaynes, Cities, Villages, Buildinges, Fortresses, Walles, yea and euery particuler thing, in that parte conteined. And is in respect saith he, of Cosmographie and Geographie, as if a patter should set forth the eye, or eare of a man, and not the whole body, so that Chorographie consisteth rather in describyng the qualitie and figure, then the bignes, and quantitie of any thinge.

Spoud. Although by your wordes, I haue receiued more commoditie at this present, then by all my readyng touching the true diference of these three names: yet if it may please you to geue me the figures of euery of them, I shall so stedfastly printe it in my mynde, as I truste not to forget them, for is is truly said, thinges seue haue longer impression then only harde.

Things seue are longer in mynde, then only harde.

Philo. I wyll gladly fulfill your request. Marke nowe this example folowing. Here first you do see the heauens conteine in them th'earth. Whiche earth is deuided into fiue principall partes, accordinge to the fiue Circles in the heauens: the names of whiche for breuitie I omytte vntyll conuenient place, lest thorowe ofte repeting things thei at length seme tedious. The other

¶ The figure represents the forme of Cosmographie.

Woodcut map within sheet of letterpress text.

THE EARLIEST MAP PRINTED IN ENGLAND TO SHOW PART OF NORTH AMERICA AND THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE NAME “AMERICA” ON AN ENGLISH MAP.

[World map from The Cosmological Glasse].

Author
CUNINGHAM, William.

Publication date
1559

Publisher
John Day,

Publication place
London:

Physical description
Woodcut map within sheet of letterpress text.

Dimensions

Notes
The earliest map printed in England to show part of North America and the first appearance of the name “America” on an English map. Both facts that have, until now, been unnoticed by bibliographers. Not recorded by Burden.

The world map from Cuningham's "Cosmological Glasse; the first original English work on cosmography. Cuningham's comprehensive work of mathematical practice is particularly notable for its exposition of surveying by triangulation and for a method of determining longitude, which the author demonstrates using examples of astronomical observations made in his native town of Norwich. It is also the first book to deal with navigation in relation to astronomy and cosmography. Waters notes that Cuningham did for cosmography what Robert Recorde did for mathematics: rescued their subjects from the grips of the scholars and moved them into the realms of the gentry and merchants. John Dee, in his preface to Billingsley's edition of Euclid (1570), noted that Cuningham's work taught many Englishmen to "like, love, get and use Maps, Charts and geographical globes." The work influenced a generation of Englishmen, stimulating their thirst for nautical exploration and the solution to navigational problems. Among them was Martin Frobisher, who included it in the very small number of books he brought with him in search of a Northwest Passage in 1576.

Bibliography

Adams & Waters 568; Houzeau & Lancaster 2603; Johnson Astronomical Thought in Renaissance England; STC 6119; Taylor Mathematical Practioners 34; Waters The Art of Navigation in England in Elizabethan and Early Stuart Times pp.98-99.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 2294

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