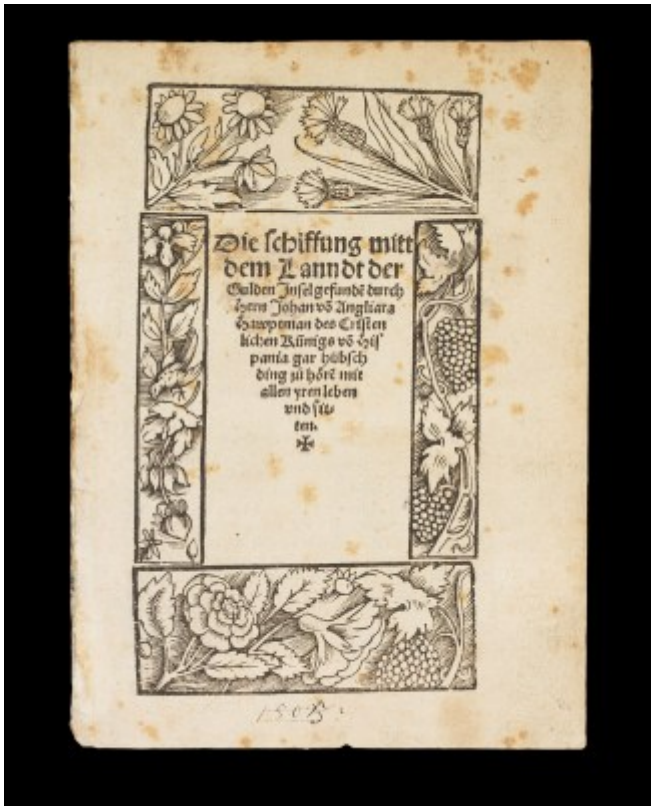


Quarto (180 by 130mm). Title-page with decorative woodcut border, [4] pages, final blank; disbound, preserved in black morocco-backed cloth slipcase and chemise.

EARLY NEW WORLD APOCRYPHA?

Die schiffvng mitt dem Lanndt der Gvlden Insel gefvndē durch Hern Johan vō Angliara Hawptman des Cristen lichen Kunigs von Hispania gar hubsch ding zu hore mit allen yren leben und sitten.

Author
ANGLIARA, Juan de; [possibly after Fr. Juan DIAZ]

Publication date
c.1522].

Publisher
Jorg Nadler,

Publication place
[Augsburg,

Physical description
Quarto (180 by 130mm). Title-page with decorative woodcut border, [4] pages, final blank; disbound, preserved in black morocco-backed cloth slipcase and chemise.

Dimensions

Notes
A rare German language edition, translated from the even rarer Italian edition printed in Ferrara in 1521 (only known in one example at the British Library).

Since “Juan de Angliara” is otherwise unknown to New World scholarship, and given that his name is very similar to Peter Martyr d’Anghiera, it is very likely that authorship of this little pamphlet is misleadingly pseudonymous. Nevertheless, the author describes himself, as an Italian captain of a Spanish ship bound for Calcutta. As in the best traditions, after a violent storm, they find shelter on an unknown island, on April 23rd, 1519. They meet the inhabitants, who lead them to a city full of gold,… after which they return to Spain with the good news. Some say the island was actually Peru, others that it was Cuba.

The latter theory is borne out by the similarity of this text to Juan Diaz’s ‘Littera mandata dell insula de Cuba de India’, an account of Juan de Grijalava’s expedition to the Yucatan, first published in Italian (probably Venice, c.1520). Juan de Grijalba (c.1480-1527) was a conquistador, and nephew of the great Diego Velázquez, whom he accompanied to Cuba in 1511. In 1518, Velázquez, as governor of Cuba, “sent Grijalba to explore the Yucatán Peninsula. Setting sail from Cuba with four ships and about 200 men, Grijalba became the first navigator to set foot on Mexican soil and the first to use the term New Spain. He and his men mapped rivers and discovered Cozumel Island. During their explorations, the men heard tales of a rich civilization in the interior. At last Grijalba met with its representatives, thus becoming the first European to learn of the existence of the Aztec empire farther to the north. When he returned to Cuba, his uncle was furious that his nephew had made no attempt at settlement, although Grijalba’s orders had been to explore only. As a result, Grijalba was passed over and the job of colonization was given to Hernán Cortés. Grijalba accompanied Cortés on his expedition (1519), but it was Grijalba’s explorations that paved the way for Cortés, thereby leading to the conquest of Mexico” (Britannica online).

Rare: one of only a handful of institutional examples known.

Bibliography

Alden & Landis, ‘European Americana: a chronological guide to works printed in Europe relating to the Americas, 1493-1776’, 520/3; Church, ‘Catalogue of books relating to the discovery and early history of North and South America’, 44; Palau, ‘Manual del librero hispano-americano’, 12666; Sabin, ‘Dictionary of books relating to America from its discovery to the present time’, 1565; Harrisse, ‘The Discovery of North America’, 1560.

Provenance

Provenance: “1505” in manuscript at the foot of the title-page.

Price: £45000

Inventory reference: 24357

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