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A 16TH CENTURY WOODBLOCK MAP OF THE OLD WORLD

£1,500.00

Die eigentliche und warhafftige gestalt der Erden und des Meers.
Cosmographia Universalis.

Cartographer	BÜNTING, Heinrich.
Date	1581
Catalogue	Catalogue 26: 15th and 16th Century Maps and Books, Catalogue 25: The Stuff of Nightmares
Stock #:	24728
Publication:	Magdeburg, 1581, German text. 310 x 375mm.
Condition:	Repairs to margins.

DESCRIPTION:

A crude representation of the Old World (but with the tip of South America bottom left corner), from Bünting's 'Itinerarium Sacrae Scriptura...', his re-imagining of the Bible as a travel book.

Although it is more conventional than Bünting's maps of the world as a cloverleaf and Asia as Pegasus, the silhouette of his Europe as a queen can be discerned. Paradoxically the title translates as 'The true shape of the World and the Oceans'.

On the map are marked 'Meroë', the mythical tombs of the Nubian Kings, and the Kingdom of Prester John. There is also a landmass the rough shape of Australia, in roughly the right place: however it is named 'India Meridionalis'.