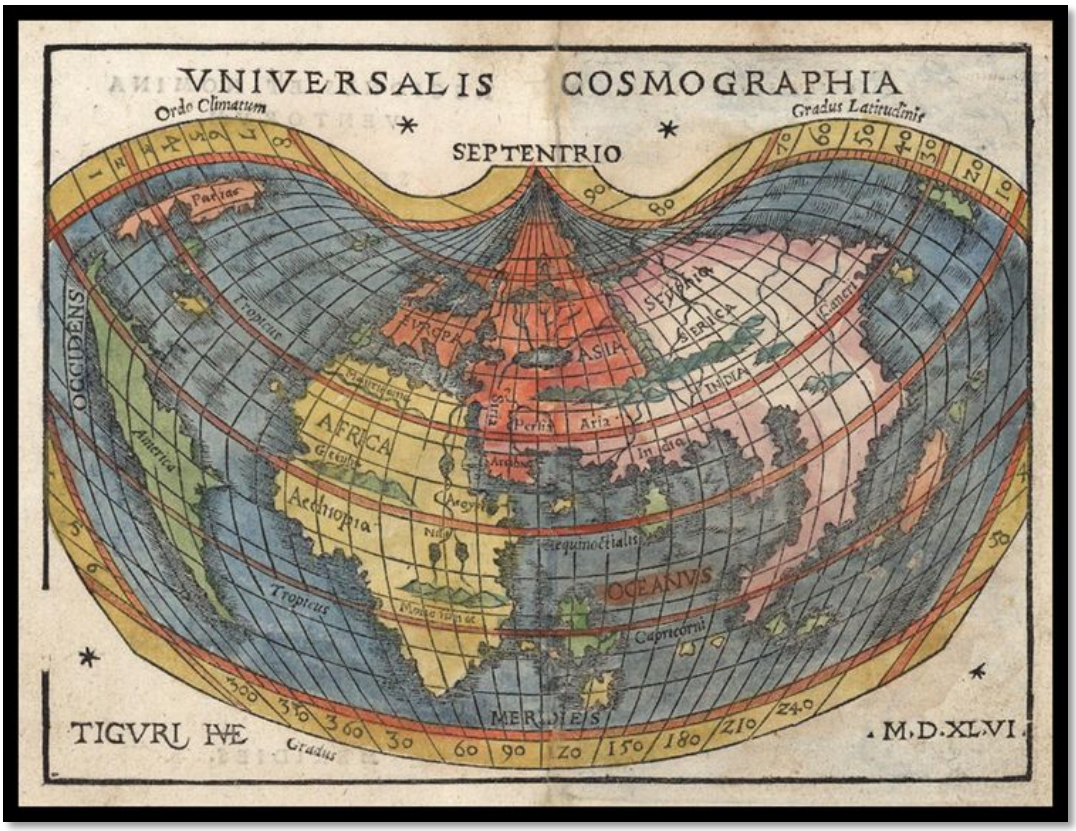

Universalis Cosmographia, from Rudimentorum Cosmographiæ

DESCRIPTION: In 1546 Honter's *Rudimenta Cosmographica* was re-published in Zürich with thirteen maps. The heart-shaped world map is a reduced version of Waldseemüller's *(#310)* and similar to the previous two world maps by Honter. Commissioned by the Zurich publisher, Christoph Froschauer, the wood-block for the world map was cut by Heinrich Vogtherr the Elder whose monogram 'HVE'appears in the lower left-hand corner.

In the map, Honter has recognized Magellan's reports of a South American continent and a vast Pacific Ocean. In the north, the American coastline is shown as parts of a large island, with a direct route to the East at the equator. Although the best cartographers and printers, like Sebastian Münster, tried to present the most up-to-date information on their maps, many others did not see the need. The world map of the German theologian and geographer Johannes Honter (1498-1549) was published at about the same time as Münster's map *(#377)*, and it is interesting because it uses a different method to project the earth's surface, albeit one also based on Ptolemaic principles. But the more important difference is that it is noticeably less current than Münster's map. In fact, Honter essentially copied it from Martin Waldseemüller's ground-breaking maps of the world from thirty years earlier. However obsolete it was, Honter's world map had a long life, appearing in all eleven editions of his *Rudimenta Cosmographica*, the last of which was published in 1595. It also appeared in a number of other books, including this one on the history of Germany, France and Switzerland by the Swiss Reformation scholar Johannes Stumpf.

Johann Honter was a Transylvanian humanist and Protestant reformer who was cited by Abraham Ortelius in t*he Catalogus auct*orum of his famous atlas in 1570.

Honter's miniature atlas and general treatise on cosmography, t*he Rudimenta Cosmograph*ica, was published in response to the popularity of his earlier books on the subject, some of which were printed on his private press in his native Kronstadt. The volume was extremely popular and Karrow notes that the *Rudimenta Cosmograph*ica taught several generations all over Europe their geographical ABC's, and the little atlas of fourteen maps that accompanied it was the first widely circulated collection of maps.

In 1542 Johann Honter's *Rudimenta Cosmographica,* a teaching text based upon Martin Waldseemüller's *Cosmographiae Introductio (#310)*, was first published in Cracow, Poland in 1530 and included a very small and simplified map similar to this one. This book is considered the oldest known school atlas and was used as such from 1542 onwards. This small compendium, written in Latin hexameters, contains three geographical figures in the text intended to illustrate the "circles and zones of the sphere"; distribution of the different celestrial spheres around the earth, which is placed in the center of the world; and the names and positions of the winds. The text is followed by a small atlas consisting of a general map and twelve maps in the Ptolemaic style, though more or less modified, of Spain, France, Germany, Poland and a part of Russia, Hungary, the Danube and Balkan countries, Greece, Italy, Sicily, Syria, Asia Minor, Central Asia and India, and Africa as far as that continent was known to Ptolemy. Curiously, none of the special, individual maps show representations of the New World; nor can a single name from the New World be found among the thousands of names of countries, towns and people enumerated in the text. Even in Africa, there is no reference to the Portuguese discoveries. In 1546, the book was re-published in Zürich with thirteen maps. The heart-shaped, or bulb-shaped, world map is a reduced version of Waldseemüller's map of 1507 *(#310),* and similar to the two previous world maps by Honter in 1530 and 1542 with virtually no geographical changes. The monogram 'HVE' in the lower left-hand corner is that of the woodcutter Heinrich Vogtherr the Elder who was specially commissioned by the printer Froschauer. Note that this monogram does not appear on this edition of the map, instead *Coronae* appears, indicating a later printing.

There were a number of editions of the *Rudimenta Cosmographica* containing this map even after a new block was prepared in 1561. Undated copies of the book can also be found. In addition, Honter's block was widely used to illustrate other works throughout the 16th century. Among these are Von Watte's *Epitome* (1546 and 1548); Stumpf's atlas of Switzerland under the titles *Lobicher Eydgenossenschaft . . ., Schweytzer Chronick* or *Landtaflen . . .*, 1548, 1552, 1554, 1586 and 1606; the work of *La Sphere de Deux Mondes . . .*, by Darinel, or Gilles Boilleau de Buillon, 1555; Pomponius Mela's *De Situ Orbus*, 1548, 1552, 1564, 1576, 1595 and 1602; and thev work *Enchiridion Cosmographiae*, 1597. In some of these editions the location and date inserts, *Tiguri . . . MDXLVI*, may be omitted, as well as the stars in the border surrounding the map.

Location: British Library, London, BL.568.b.29

Size: 15.5 x 12 cm; 4 3/4″ x 6 1/2″ [on a text sheet measuring 7″ x 10 3/4″].

References:
*Nordenskiöld, A.E., *Facsimile Atlas*, pp. 111-112, Plate XLIV, Figure 71.
*Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of the World*, pp. 70-71, 91, 97-98; nos. 65, 79, 86; Plates 59, 73
The World Encompassed, no. 66
*Wolff, H., *America, Early Maps of the New World*, pp. 76, 165, cat. 92, Figure 7 (color)

*illustrated