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TITLE: **THE NAMING OF AMERICA**
Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 World Map and the Cosmographiae Introductio

AUTHOR: **John W. Hessler**

IMPRINT: GILES in association with The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LIST PRICE: US\$24.95 /UK£12.95

PUBLICATION: February 2008

ISBN: 1-904832-49-0 (10 digit); 978-1-904832-49-2 (13 digit)

SPECIFICATION: 191mm x 229mm (7 ½" x 9"), 128 pages, printed in 4 colours, hardback

ILLUSTRATIONS: 40 colour illustrations

TEXT: Up to 25,000 words, including Acknowledgments, Introductory Essay, Translation, Notes and References

MARKET: Will appeal to cartographers, geographers and historians, but will also attract those with an interest in the history of the New World, maps and scientific development

SALES POINTS:

- The first sheet-by-sheet colour facsimile of Waldseemüller's 1507 world map – one of the most important maps in the history of cartography
- Summarizes the current state of knowledge on Waldseemüller and his collaborators
- Features a completely new translation of the *Cosmographiae Introductio* – Waldseemüller's guidebook to his famous map – and identifies Waldseemüller's sources.

CONTENTS: This new book features a facsimile of the 1507 World Map by Martin Waldseemüller – the first map ever to display the name America – and tells the fascinating story behind its creation in 16th-century France and rediscovery 300 years later in the library of Wolfegg Castle, Germany, in 1901. It also includes a completely new translation and commentary to Martin Waldseemüller and Matthias Ringmann's seminal cartographic text, the *Cosmographiae Introductio*, which originally accompanied the World Map.

The *Cosmographiae Introductio* by Martin Waldseemüller (ca. 1470-ca.1521) and Matthias Ringmann (1482-1511) was printed in two editions in 1507 in the small village of St. Dié in North Eastern France, under the patronage of

advance information



Duke René II of Lorraine. Its importance stems from the mention on its title page of two maps that appear to have originally been part of the book. One of these maps, described in Latin as a *plano*, is Martin Waldseemüller's famous 1507 World Map. It represents the continents of North and South America with a shape similar to those we would recognize today, separated from Asia by the Pacific Ocean. The other map, called a *solido*, was a printed globe gore that is thought to be the first of its kind. Together, the 1507 map and the *Cosmographiae introductio* occupy a crucial place in history, between the discovery of the New World by Columbus in 1492 and the birth of the scientific revolution with Copernicus in 1543.

John Hessler considers answers to some of the key questions raised by the map's representation of the New World, including "How was it possible for a small group of cartographers to have produced a view of the world so radical for its time and so close to the one we recognize today?"; and "What evidence did they possess to show the existence of the Pacific Ocean when neither Vasco Núñez de Balboa nor Ferdinand Magellan had yet reached it?". There are no easy answers, and yet, as this fascinating book reveals, this group of unknowns created some of the most important maps in the history of cartography, and afford us a glimpse into an age when accepted scientific and geographic principles fell away, spawning the birth of modernity.

AUTHOR:

John W. Hessler is a member of the Collections Management Team of the Geography and Map Division at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. He has published extensively on the history of mathematical and planetary cartography, and is the author of articles relating to the Waldseemüller Map Corpus. His current research focuses on the study of geometrical and axiomatic methods in Ptolemy's cartographic and astronomical works, especially the *Mathematica Syntaxis*

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- Acknowledgments
- Introductory Essay: A New View of the World
- Notes and References
- Translation of the *Cosmographiae Introductio*
- Appendix
- Translators Notes and References