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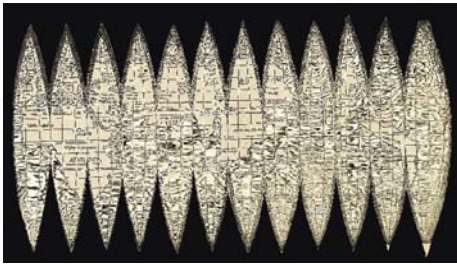
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CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER THE PIECE OF HISTORY THAT PUT AMERICA ON THE MAP

**Important Maps, Atlases and Globes
8 June 2005, Christie's King Street**

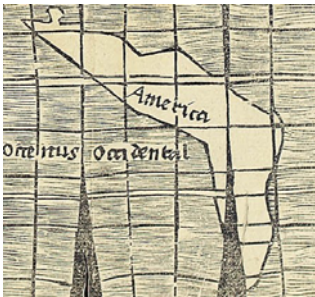
King Street – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of Important Maps, Atlases and Globes on 8 June 2005, which will be led by the first new map of the world. The printed map by Martin



Waldseemüller, produced in 1507, is truly groundbreaking. It presents the first use of the word 'America', as well as the first ever printed portrayal of the Earth as a globe, the first time that the continents of North and South America had been individually distinguished and the first depiction of a Pacific Ocean. This is one of four examples of this map in existence, and was discovered amongst the collection of a European collector after he read about the subject in a national newspaper. The map carries an estimate of £500,000-800,000.

The Great Age of European Exploration and Discovery lasted from 1492 to 1522. During this period, the greatest explorers from Spain, Italy and Portugal sailed the seas and returned with stories and information about the New World. Although history records that Christopher Columbus had discovered America in 1492, he was convinced that the land mass was Asia. It was another Italian, Amerigo Vespucci, who argued that the new land to the West was a new continent altogether.

Until this map was published, the conception of the world was based on the knowledge of the Ancient Greeks. In 1505, Rene II, the Duke of Lorraine, gathered a group of scholars to the



Monastery of Saint Die des Vosges, near Strasbourg, to work on a new map of the world. These scholars, led by Martin Waldseemüller, were provided with a French translation of Vespucci's voyages that Rene II had received from Lisbon earlier in that year. This account gave them enough material to start to plot a new map to include the New World to the West. In 1507, the scholars published a work titled 'Cosmographiae Introductio', which argued the existence of a new

land mass to the West. They called this land mass America, after Amerigo Vespucci. Within a month of publishing the book, they produced the first map of the world to include the Americas, which will be offered at Christie's in June.

This example of the Waldseemuller map was discovered amongst the collection of a European gentleman, who is a keen collector of books and manuscripts. This collector recalls that one morning in February 2003, he was reading his newspaper and drinking a cup of coffee when he noticed an article about Waldseemuller and his map of the world. He instantly recognized the distinctive jagged outline of the map, and recalled seeing something similar in his own collection. After taking the map to his regional Christie's representative, it was sent to London where book and map specialists confirmed that it was indeed a Waldseemuller map.

'This is one of the most exciting discoveries of my career, and represents the pinnacle in the history of map making', says Tom Lamb, Director of Christie's Book and Manuscript Department, London. 'This simple sheet of paper holds so many new and anticipated discoveries, all created with an enormous leap of faith by a venerable Geographer in a small town in Lorraine.'

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Images available on request
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Notes to editors:

- There are 4 known examples of this Waldseemuller map, including the one to be offered at Christie's. The first of the maps was discovered in 1871, and is now at the University of Minnesota, USA. A second was discovered inside a Ptolemy atlas and is at the Bavarian State Library in Munich. In 1992, a third copy was discovered bound into an edition of Aristotle in the Bibliothek Stadtbucherei Offenburg, a public library in Germany. There is also one much bigger Wall Map, which was published around 1515, and was purchased privately by the Library of Congress in Washington DC for \$10 million in 2003.

- Christie's has held sales annual dedicated to Maps and Atlases since 1998. The top 5 prices realized at Christie's are as follows:

1.	30 October 1991	A magnificent pair of gilt-metal globes, 1579	£1,023,000
		WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR A GLOBE AT AUCTION	
2.	9 April 1997	A magnificent gilt-brass Ptolemaic armillary sphere, 1579	£771,500
3.	2 December 1987	Battista Agnese, Manuscript Portolan Atlas	£660,000
		WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR A PORTOLAN ATLAS AT AUCTION	
4.	13 April 1988	Manuscript Portolan of the Atlantic Ocean	£330,000
5.	13 April 1988	Manuscript Portolan of the Mediterranean	£286,000