



Typus Cosmographicus Universalis

Cartographer: Joachim von Watte (Vadianus)

Date: 1534

Size: 23.5 x 37.5 cm

Location: British Library 566.i.26

From: *Epitome Trium Terrae Partium, Asiae, Africae et Europae ...* Zurich, Christopher Frosch, 1534. This clear and precise woodcut map is a reduced-sized version of Münster's world map of 1532 (#353). Vadianus (Watte) was a Swiss geographer, humanist and mathematician, who studied at the University of Vienna.

This work was published at Zurich by Christopher Frosch for the learned scholar and geographer Joachim von Watte, also known by his latinized name "Vadianus". There were two editions published at the same time, a duodecimo and a folio one. The latter contains a general map on an oval projection which is a simplified reduction of the Münster map printed at Basle two years earlier. There are none of the border decorations apart from twelve small wind-heads and the sea is also plain.

The wood engraving is clear and precise but the map is geographically outmoded and lacks the visual excitement of the Basle predecessor. There were no later editions and Von Watte's smaller size *Epitome* of 1548 contains a world map by Johann Honter. A few copies of a second state of Von Watte's map are however known where there is the following imprint in the lower banner: *Apud 10. Ludoicum & Guilelmum Richart 1542*. This map appeared in the *De Geographia* of Glareanus (also known under

the name Heinrich Loriti) from Paris in 1542, and in its third state in a later edition of 1572 with the names of Marnef and Cavellat substituted.

The Swiss scholar Joachim Vadianus (Joachim von Watte 1484-1551) studied in Vienna under Celtis and Cuspinian. He belonged to the humanist circle that had gathered around the Habsburg Emperor Maximilian I and published a considerable number of works, ranging from poetry and history to the theology of the Reformation. Among these was his *Epitome Trium Terrarum Partium, Asiae, Africae et Europae compendiarium*.

In this oval world map, the southern polar landmass is missing. The name *America* is given to South America, which appears too broad in the north and too narrow in the south; North America is called *Terra Cuba*. The islands of the West Indies are not included.

In its depiction of the New World the map is closely related, except for its decoration, to the map insert included with the *Novus Orbis* by Münster/Holbein (see #353). The title and imprint are displayed in decorative scrolls in the upper and lower margins. Twelve wind heads, familiar since antiquity, encircle the map.

Reference:

*Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of the World*, Plate 62, #70, p. 78.

*Nordenskiöld, A.E., *Facsimile Atlas*, p. 105 and fig. 66.

*Wolff, H., *America, Early Maps of the New World*, pp.71-72, #87.

*illustrated