

### TWO IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING CHARTS.

The time and circumstances of the first appearance of the word "America" on a geographical chart constituted a mooted and much combated question among the students of cosmography and cartography. The cable lately reported from Germany the unearthing of the long missed and much hunted for world-maps of Waldseemüller, printed in the years 1507 and 1516. This ended and decided the controversy. But before we consider this important discovery, the reader will kindly permit a small digression.

#### America.

Well known is the Pre-Columbian discovery of "America" by the Northmen. "Eric the Red" coming from Iceland, set foot on the soil of Greenland in the tenth century, and later on his son, "Leif the Lucky," visited the coast of the North American continent, starting from what we call Labrador today, and going south as far as the region between Boston and New York, where the Northmen established a settlement, called "Vinland."

#### Northmen.

Stones, inscribed with runes, after the fashion of the old Germanic peoples, are yet in existence, silent witnesses of ancient times, telling the tale of a misty past. The Northmen, a semi-barbaric people, and living in remote regions, had but little communication with other folks, or none at all; thus it happened that neither the more erudite and cultured nations of southern Europe, nor geographical science profited by the exploits of those bold adventurers.

#### Columbus.

In Columbus we justly recognize nowadays the true discoverer of the new world, but fate denied to him the honor of being its sponsor. Not a writer himself, he was unfortunate in not finding a ready and capable narrator of his exploits. And as news traveled slow in those days and truth still slower, Columbus received but small recognition among his contemporaries outside of Spain and Portugal.

#### Amerigo Vespucci.

There is no historic evidence that Amerigo Vespucci, a learned Italian merchant and cosmograph, who made several voyages to the new world, which afterwards bore his name, aspired to this honor, but he was lucky enough to possess numerous and influential friends and admirers, who advocated his cause, thus temporarily obscuring the merits of Columbus and the priority of his claims. So it came to pass that Martin Waldseemüller (this appellation means "the miller by the lake of the woods"), a German

bookseller, writer and cartographer, who called himself often "Ilacomilus" grecizing his name after the manner of the Humanists and the usage of the times, became much impressed with the exploits of Amerigo. He translated in the year 1507 a French account of Amerigo's travels into the Latin language. This book, "Cosmographiae Introductio," appeared in four editions and gained great circulation and influence, spreading Amerigo's fame and name far and wide.

#### Waldseemüller.

Waldseemüller also proposed the name "America," inscribing it upon the map of the world designed by him in the same year.

The "New York Staatszeitung" tells in an interesting German correspondence how those two valuable charts were recovered, after they had been missing for centuries. I take the liberty of quoting from said paper in free translation:

"Professor Dr. von Wieser of the Innsbruck University, who not long ago instituted a search for Waldseemüller's great world-maps of 1507 and 1516, and succeeded to find Waldseemüller's less important 'Carta itineraria Europae,' 1511, announces now that his co-scholar and former student, Professor Joseph Fischer, has unearthed the two missing charts. Fischer is interested in the voyages of the Northmen to the North American coast. During his search for some old maps of Greenland he had the good luck to find Waldseemüller's two great charts in an old and dusty folio belonging to the magnificent library of Prince Waldburg at Wolfegg, in Wuerttemberg.

#### Charts of 1507 and 1516.

"Both maps are xylographs. The one of 1507 is inscribed 'Universalis Cosmographia secundum Ptolomaei traditionem et Americi Vespucii aliorumque illustrationes.' It bears artistic vignettes of Ptolemaeus and Amerigo Vespucci, and the word 'America' appears immediately over the Tropic of the Capricorn.

"German savants, stimulated by the investigations and example of the great Alexander von Humboldt, have recovered many old charts inscribed with the name 'America,' but Waldseemüller's map of 1507 is undoubtedly the first and oldest printed chart showing the new continent and conferring upon it the name 'America.' Waldseemüller dropped this word in his second world-map, the 'Carta Marina,' 1516, also found by Fischer, because during the interval of nine years the true version of affairs gained ground, and Columbus had finally been accepted as the real discoverer of the new world.

#### Too Late.

"But it was too late! A lasting

impression had been produced by the thousand copies of the chart of 1507 with the accompanying 'Cosmographiae Introductio.' The magic word 'America' had come to stay! Waldseemüller's great cartographic monument has awakened much interest among students and laymen on account of its deep and abiding influence upon the minds of Columbus' contemporaries and its far-reaching consequences.

#### Reprint.

"Prince Waldburg, who takes great pride in the possession of the two invaluable charts, has already given permission for their reproduction and publication; this will be done under the supervision of Wieser and Fischer."

#### Appreciated.

The reprint of these maps, especially the one of 1507 conferring and establishing the name "America" upon our continent, will be heartily welcomed and much valued in this country. This is one of the few instances where the quiet and patient labors of the men of abstract science, who far removed from the noise of the market, the chase after the dollar and the tumultuous arena of politics, work and strive for the advancement of knowledge and scientific truth, find a ready appreciation with the general public.

E. W. S.

#### NEW WONDER BOOK.

An advance copy of the Classification Book for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1903, has been received. Fifty-three pages are required for a mere enumeration of the groups and classes of exhibits. The exhibits of the entire exposition are divided into fifteen departments, as follows: Education, eight groups; art, six groups; liberal arts, thirteen groups; manufacturers, thirty-four groups; transportation, six groups; agriculture, twenty-seven groups; horticulture, seven groups; forestry, three groups; mining and metallurgy, five groups; anthropology, four groups; social economy, thirteen groups; physical culture, three groups. The total shows 144 groups and 807 classes, and under each class is a possibility for a multitude of exhibits. Nothing reflects more clearly in so small a space, the variety of human occupations, or more comprehensively the broad scope of the great exposition which the people of St. Louis are preparing for next year. A place is provided for every conceivable product worthy of exhibition, and all nations of the world have been invited to take part. Acceptances have been received from many. The work of construction is progressing earnestly. The buildings will have an aggregate floor space of 200 acres, and the grounds a total area of 1,000 acres. The money now available aggregates \$15,000,000, besides \$1,000,000 appropriated by the state of Missouri, and various liberal sums from other states. The classification and the rules and regulations of the exposition will be mailed free on application to the Director of Exhibits, World's Fair, St. Louis.