

## 10. Sebastian Münster (Münster 1)

Basel, 1540

SCHONLANDIA XIII NOVA TABVLA

Woodcut, 25.5 x 34.2 cm

From *Geographia universalis . . . Clavdii Ptolemaei . . .*



10.0 *Schonlandia*, Sebastian Münster, 1540.

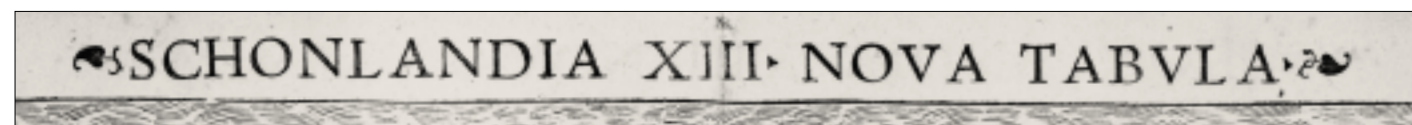
The previous three entries are unusual in that none evolved from editions of Ptolemy's *Geography*. This map of Scandinavia by Sebastian Münster (fig. 10.0) appeared in a *Geography* he compiled in 1540, when he was professor of Hebrew at the University of Basel. Münster had previously studied mathematics, theology, and classical languages at Heidelberg and Tübingen.

Münster, who lived from 1488 to 1552, was one of the most influential cartographers of the sixteenth century.

The information he sought from other scholars resulted in maps, views, and descriptions that represented the first significant advances since Waldseemüller's 1513 publication of the *Geography*. For example, Münster was the first to include separate maps for each of the four known continents.

Although Münster included this map in an edition of Ptolemy, he based its geographic content on Ziegler's map of 1532 (Entry 8), not on a previous *Geography*. On both, the same range of mountains separates Norway (here





10.1 Title, *Schonlandia*, S. Münster, 1542 edition.

Nortuegia) from the eastern part of the peninsula. Most of the place-names in Norway are the same on Münster's and Ziegler's maps, as are the offshore islands, although Münster's sea is noticeably calmer. In Münster's depiction, the large island to the west bears the names "ISLAND" and "THYLE." More of Lapland and Greenland, now populated with animals and tents, is shown. The tip of Greenland still seems to include "Terra noua siue de Bacolhos."

Through the use of text blocks at the upper left and right, Münster provided contextual information on the face of the map. The one to the left translates as follows:

Denmark gets its name from the king called Dan, and it comprises Cimbrica, Chersonesus or Jutland, which they commonly call Dietmarck; Fyn; Seeland, which some call Sjælland; and many other islands. In the year of our Lord 1398, the Danish King brought under his rule the kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. The notable cities of Cimbrica are Schleswig, where the duchy once was; Ribe, the seat of the bishopric; Viborg; Harrusia, commonly Aarhus; and Horsens. On Fyn [are] Ottonia commonly Odense, Middelfart, Nyborg, Svendborg. This island is situated between Jutland and Sjælland.

The heading above the text on the right reads "Chiefly the Cities of Seeland," but summary details of major towns are provided. For example, "Copenhagen is . . . the mercantile port. The royal seat is here, and the university. In Norway, Nidrosia, commonly Drontheim, is the archbishopric of all the churches of Norway, Iceland, and Greenland and comprises the Episcopal bodies of Bergen, Stavanger, Oslo and Hamar. In Sweden, Stockholm is the capital and Uppsala is distinguished by the diocese and the university."

The same woodblocks were used for the Scandinavia map in the first two issues of Münster's *Geography*, dated 1540 and 1542.<sup>1</sup> They can be distinguished by slight differences in the titles, in the letterpress in the two boxes of text, and in the typesetting on the reverse.

1540 The tip of the leaf at the left of the title points right toward "SCHONLANDIA"

The last line of the box on the left is "Cimbricam & Selandiam."

Text of the box on the right:

first line: "Selandiæ urbes præcipuæ"  
last word of the second line: "Koppen"  
last line begins: "dercopia . . ."

Text on the reverse:

the leaf at the beginning of the title points right  
the first word in the third line of the text is "&"  
but both have "SCHONLANDIA" above forty-eight lines of non-italic text and the number "41" at the bottom

1542 In the title (fig. 10.1), the tip of the leaf at the left points to the left, there are periods after "XIII" and "TABVLA," and a second leaf is at the right of the title

The last line of the box on the left is "bricam & Selandiam."

Text of the box on the right:

first line: "Selandiæ urbes præcipuæ"  
last word of the second line: "Koppē"  
last line begins: "copia . . ."

Text on the reverse:

the leaf at the beginning of the title points left  
the first word in the third line of the text is "et"  
but both have "SCHONLANDIA" above forty-eight lines of non-italic text and the number "41" at the bottom

Two more editions of Münster's *Geography* were published, in 1545 and 1552. They included a different map of Scandinavia, which Münster had already introduced in the first edition of his *Cosmography*, published in 1544 (Entry 12, Münster 2). This newer map was based on the more recent Olaus Magnus depiction of the northern region of Europe (Entry 9).

Surprisingly, Münster's first map of Scandinavia reappeared more than two hundred years later, in 1764, in Adam Anderson's *An Historical and Chronological Deduction of the Origin of Commerce*.<sup>2</sup> The map (fig. 10.2) was engraved by Thomas Kitchin, a fairly prolific engraver and



10.2 Copy of Münster *Schonlandia* by Thomas Kitchin in Adam Anderson, *An Historical and Chronological Deduction of the Origin of Commerce*, Vol. 1, 1764.

mapmaker who was hydrographer to George III. Anderson used the map in a historical context, as the lengthy title elucidates<sup>3</sup>:

*The famous Sebastian Munster's Map of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Baltic Sea; of Greenland, Lapland, and the adjacent Seas and Countries; as known in the Year 1540, when Munster published at Basil his Geographia vetus et nova; just XIII years before England first re-discovered the naval passage round the north cape of Norway-Lapland into the White-Sea of Russia.*

Whereby it plainly appears that the very distinct Description given by Oether to our great Alfred King of England, near the close of the IX<sup>th</sup> Century, on page 44 and 45 of Vol. I. under the year 887, of the said naval passage round Lapland to Russia, was, in the said year 1540, utterly forgotten & unknown.

By this Chart, (which we have exactly copy'd from Munster's) may likewise be seen the Ignorance of the Geographers and Map-makers of that time concerning the true position, Latitude, Longitude, Shape and bearings of those northern Countries & of the adjacent Seas.

REFERENCES: Burden, *Mapping of North America*, entry 13; Germundson, "Münster's three maps," pp. 137–143; Karrow, *Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century*, pp. 410–434; Ruland, "Survey of the Double-page Maps," pp. 84–97

COLLECTORS' NOTE: Uncommon to Scarce

The first Münster map of Scandinavia is scarce because it appeared in only two editions of his *Geography*. It comes to the market from time to time, and slightly more often than copies of the book. Patience will likely reward the serious seeker of this map.

NOTES

1. Rare Books Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library, Princeton, N.J., has a copy of the *Geography* with a 1540 date on the colophon, but 1541 on the title page and dedication. The map in the volume corresponds to the one associated with the 1540 printing.

2. Adam Anderson, *An Historical and Chronological Deduction of the Origin of Commerce* (London, 1764), map folded in between pp. 386 and 387 of Vol. I. This first edition of the work should have three maps, the other two being a modern world and a Ptolemaic world. There were at least three more editions, including one in German and one published in Dublin. Although some contain the world maps, none has Münster's map of Scandinavia.

3. The same points are made in the text of the work. *Ibid.*, p. 387n.