



Maps, Myths, and Men: The Story of the Vinland Map

Kirsten Seaver

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The "Vínland Map" first surfaced on the antiquarian market in 1957 and the map's authenticity has been hotly debated ever since—in controversies ranging from the anomalous composition of the ink and the map's lack of provenance to a plethora of historical and cartographical riddles. *Maps, Myths, and Men* is the first work to address the full range of this debate. Focusing closely on what the map in fact shows, the book contains a critique of the 1965 work *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation*; scrutinizes the marketing strategies used in 1957; and covers many aspects of the map that demonstrate it is a modern fake, such as literary evidence and several scientific ink analyses performed between 1967 and 2002. The author explains a number of the riddles and provides evidence for both the identity of the mapmaker and the source of the parchment used, and she applies current knowledge of medieval Norse culture and exploration to counter widespread misinformation about Norse voyages to North America and about the Norse world picture.

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