

THE
DESCRIPTION
OF
NEW VIRGINIA.



Tis wonderfull how much this Province and the Colony therein encreased from the time that the Englishmen began first to inhabit it : so that almost all parts of it are found out and discovered. And that these things may appeare more clearely, wee thinke it fit to joyne to this Description Captaine *Smiths* last Voyage into this Country. These Provinces therefore expressed in this present Card, have on the North a high Mountaine, at the foote whereof there dwell a people called *Sasquesabanong*. On the North-west it hath the *Massawonecks*, on the West the *Manahoacks*, on the South-west the *Monacans*, on the South the *Mongoags* and *Chanons*, betweene *Affrick* and the North the *Virginian Sea*, and on the West certaine high Mountaines doe shew themselves, on which certaine rude barbarous people doe live call'd *Kuskarawaocks*, *Tockwoghs*, and *Aquanachukes*. The River *Powhatan* watereth this Country, which riseth in the Country of the *Monacans*, and so running towards *Affrick* it falleth into the Ocean. Neere the Promontory *Wiffins* another lesser River doth empty it selfe into the Sea, as also the Rivers *Payaunkata*, *Cappahonock*, and *Parwomeck*, which are full of Fish, and are inhabited round about. There are also other Nations toward the North, but not knowne. These Countries Captaine *Smith* in the yeere 1608. did discover with one *Brigantine* or *Galloone*, who met two Indians, who brought him from *Capo Charles* to *Accomack*, whence he sayled to the great Bay *Chesapeack*, about which there dwelt divers people who warred one with another, who entertained him in severall manners. But his chiefe desire was to finde out the veines of mettall, which he attempted in vaine. *Powhatan* is a little Village consisting of 12. Houses or rather Cottages, being situate on a pleasant Hill, the Lords of which place were called by the same name, as also the neighbour Nation, who entertained him well, without any shew of Hostility. Wherefore when Captaine *Newport* came thither with a new supply, he would needs goe visit *Powhatan* at his house at *Weromoco*, who being courteously entertain'd he found him sitting on a Straw Matt, and resting his head after his Country manner on a faire Pillow, and Maydes as faire as the place could afford did sitt at his head and feete, and 20. Concubines did watch at each side of the Palace. But hee himselfe having his head and breast painted red, wore a chaine of white Corral. And when the Captaine had given him one of his Boyes, hee gave him back in exchange one of his Servants call'd *Wamotack*, with Corall,

and some Corne, which served well for the reliefe of his men, and afterward he furnished the Captaine with all things necessary. Hee as also Captaine *Smith* had a great desire to finde out veines of Gold and Silver, but both he and those that came after him were frustrated in their desire. Yet he sent a Ship loaden with Cedar to England. In the meane time *Pomohatan* laboured to get some armes and munition from the English, which the Governours did very much suspect, as if the King with those armes intended to kill the English, or drive them out of the Country. But Captaine *Smiths* vigilance and watchfulnesse prevented him, so that he could effect nothing, and the English Colonie living here are now in a good estate increased to many thousands, and Kine, and Hogs, and Turkies aboundance, and all things plentifull, and no want but of good women, thick sowne, but this come up.

Virginia so
now flourish-
eth, that it vit-
rels other
parts,

NEW



THE MEANING OF THE FRONTISPIECE.

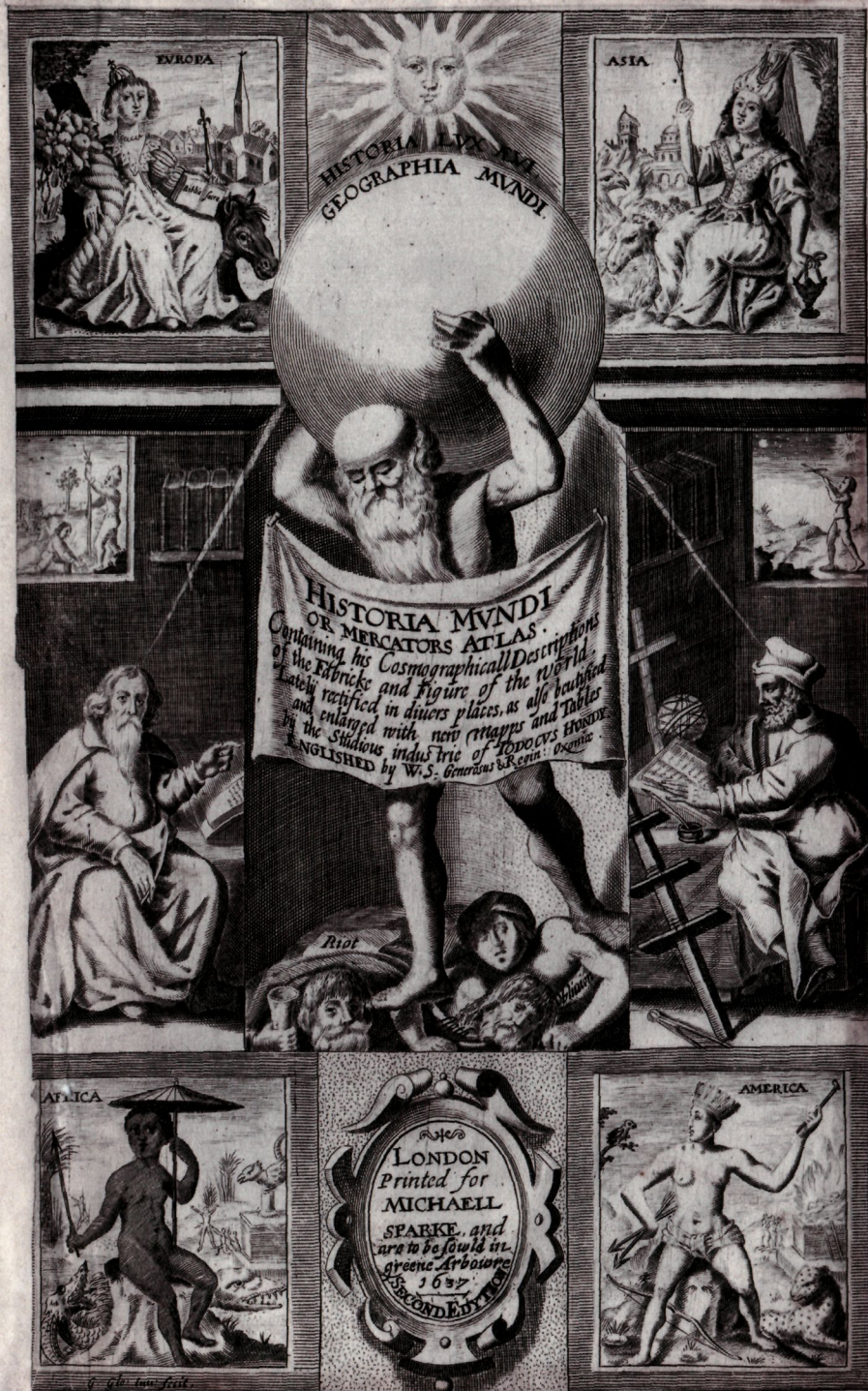
LEARNING the ATLAS of the world, does beare
Earths burthen up; sustaines this lower Spheare;
VVhich else had fall'n, and her declining light
Had slept in shades of IGNORANCE and NIGHT.

RIOT and SLOTH, and dull OBLIVIONS head
Our ATLAS spurnes, whose conquering feet does tread
Vpon those slavish necks, which else would rise
(Like selfe-lewd Rebels) up and tyrannize:

Grave HISTORIE, and renown'd GEOGRAPHY
Keepe Centry here; their quickning flames doe fly
And make a SUNNE whose more refulgent rayes
Lightens the VVORLD, and glorifies our DAYES:

By that, faire EUROPE views the ASIAN shore,
And wilde AMERICK courts the Sunburnt MOORE:
By this, th'extreme ANTIPODES doe meeete
And Earths vast bulke is lodg'd within one SHEETE.

M. S.



1637

Total page

Ralph Hall

Virginia

1635

- Burden -

244 Ralph Hall

London, 1636

VIRG INIA/ Ralph Hall Sculpsit. 1636

Copperplate engraving, 170 x 235 mm.

From: *Historia Mundi*: or Mercators Atlas

Plate 244

Wye Saltonstall intended to include in his first edition of the *Historia Mundi* a map of Virginia. In acquiring the Mercator—Hondius copperplates used first in the *Atlas Minor* of 1607, he only possessed one of Virginia and Florida, which covers the area south of Chesapeake Bay. Since that time the Jamestown colony had become important, and a map would be needed to illustrate it. Unfortunately one was not ready in time, so at the end of the errata can be found 'In Page 905 for the Description of Nevv Spaine read Nevv Virginia, but there is no Map of Virginia in regard where is a more exact Map drawing in that Country whose Platforme is not yet come over, but when it comes, every buyer of the Booke shall have it given him gratis.' By 'Nevv Virginia' he is referring to the Jamestown settlements as an earlier chapter in the book describes Raleigh's Virginia.

Despite the claim in the errata, the map does not appear to have been drawn in Virginia as it is largely drawn from John Smith's map of Virginia, 1612. It is, in fact, the first English derivative of this landmark map. Ralph Hall, the engraver, appears not to have taken great care to accurately portray the Smith delineation as many placenames are completely removed from their location on the original. He even went as far as naming *Hall=poynit* in the middle of the map after himself; this occurs on no other of the period. For the adornments Hall looked elsewhere and drew on John White's drawings as published by Theodore de Bry. Across the map he placed Indians, birds, trees and various animals, including one, a type of leopard, which in straddling a river curiously loses part of its torso. The map was included in future editions of the *Historia Mundi* in 1637 and 1639. However, it is rare, lacking in many examples; a fate that has befallen many desirable maps.

References: Koeman (1967) vol. 2, p. 549/ Morrison (1983) no. 9/ Verner (1968) pp. 136-47 & 167.

Clements/ Harvard/ Huntington/ University of Illinois, Urbana/ Indiana University, Bloomington/ JCB/ LC/ Newberry/ NYPL/ Yale/ BL, London/ and others.

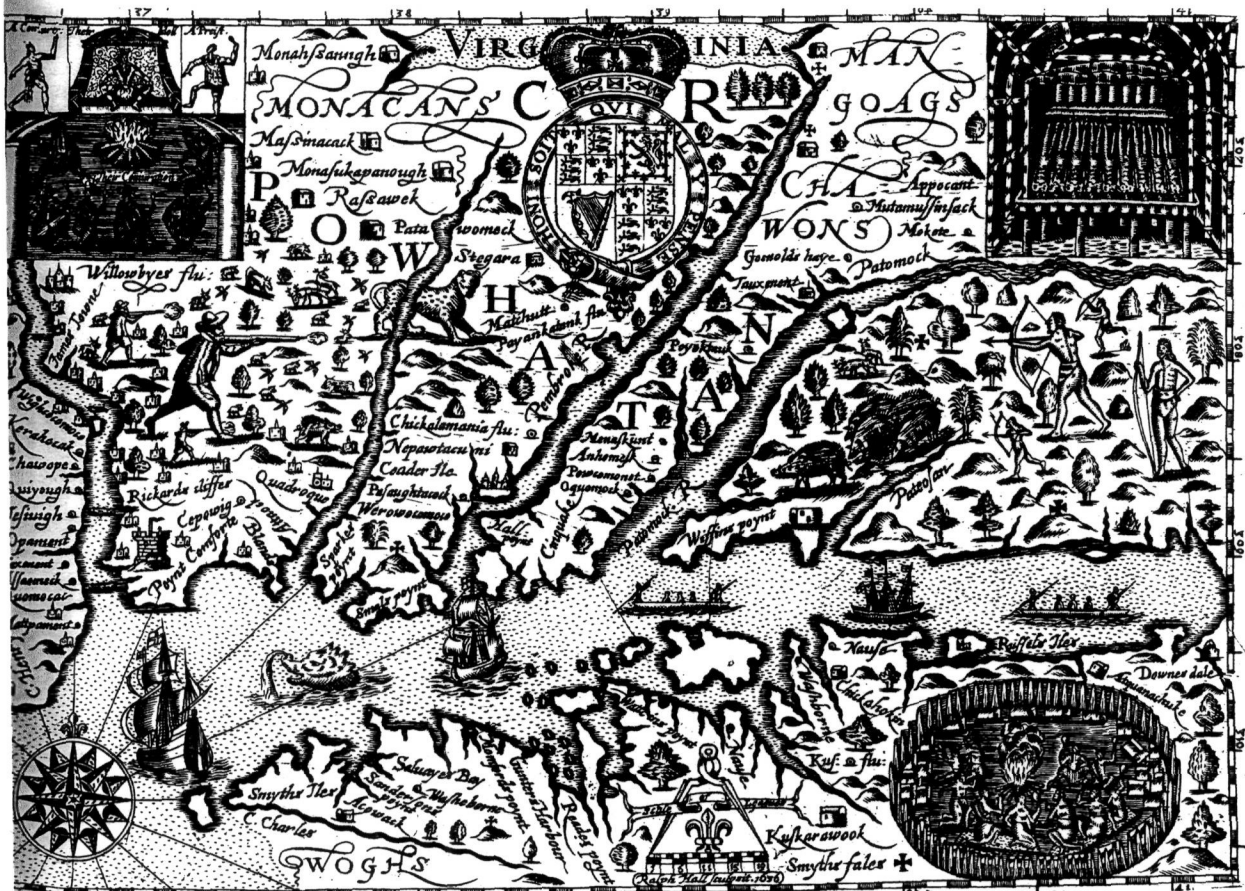


PLATE 244 (Entry 244). Ralph Hall's rare curious map of Virginia (London, 1635).