

The Wittenberg Times

1526-1550



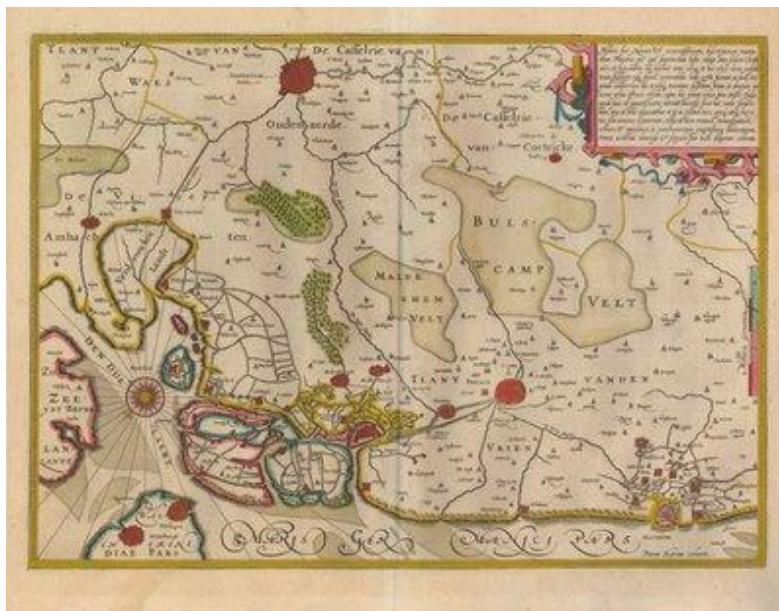
All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther
Editor: Hank Bitten

1537 Mercator Produces First Map of Flanders and Palestine

Gerard Mercator published a map of Flanders and Palestine to illustrate the stories of the Bible. Clearly, the translation of the New Testament by Martin Luther into the language of the people is having a profound impact on the desire for travel, even with the dangers from Sulemein and the Turks. Reading the stories of God in the language of the people throughout Europe has generated excitement in art, music, and now travel to the villages where Jesus walked and talked. The reformers have made religious faith a personal matter.

In an interview with a member of the council in Antwerp, we learned that “*Mercator knew Palestine better than any place outside the Low Countries. He had grown up with its miracles and revelations. He knew its history. Palestine had been the subject of the first map that most of his generation had ever seen. And like the Bible maps of his boyhood, his would show the route described in the Fourth book of Moses.*”

As a result of the accuracy of these two maps, Emperor Charles V has named Gerard Mercator as the official geographer of the empire! He is currently working on placing a map on a globe and mapping the entire world.



Map of Flanders



Map of Palestine

The Wittenberg Times
1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther
Editor: Hank Bitten

1537 October 24 - Unexpected Death of Jane Seymour, Age 29



Portrait of Queen Jane Seymour by Hans Holbein

Queen Jane received the last rites from the bishop of Carlisle and died early this morning at Hampton Court Palace in the company of the king. The official cause of her death was diarrhea, which came upon her violently at the christening of her son, Prince Edward. However, her death is more likely from an infection that resulted from a tear in her difficult labor of the new prince.

Her funeral was held at Windsor Castle. The king has ordered 29 damsels, one for each year of the queen's life, to follow her to her final resting place in St. George's Chapel. The bells of all the churches in London tolled for six hours and were silenced with a requiem mass at St. Paul's Cathedral at sunset.

The Wittenberg Times

1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther
Editor: Hank Bitten

1537 Vehe Publishes First Catholic Hymn Book

Michael Vehe published a hymn book of medieval chants and Protestant hymns today in Leipzig. The book, *Ein new Gesangbuchlin geystlicher Lieder*, includes 57 hymns and a revised liturgy. For the first time the people in the congregation are invited to make the sign of the cross when the priest speaks, ***“Our Help is in the Name of the Lord.”*** The new liturgy also has the priest’s hands extended open and upright during prayers.

The new Catholic hymnal does not appear to have the educational, devotional and inspirational quality of the Lutheran hymnal primarily because the reasons for the popularity of the Protestant hymns is considered heresy by the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther’s hymns and liturgy emphasize God’s Word and personal faith as compared to the chants and chorales led by the priest or cantor with the new Catholic hymns.

The decision to publish a Roman Catholic hymnal in the native language of the people supports the importance of the revolutionary changes in the way people are worshipping God in Protestant churches.