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AMERICA NAMED IN FRENCH TOWN

Little Town of St. Die to Celebrate Fact.

WESTERN WORLD GODMOTHER

Learned Followers of Gutenberg Honored Amerigo Vespucci In 1507 by Using His Name as Title For Recently Discovered Continent For First Time In History of Earth.

The little town of St. Die, in the Vosges department of France, is preparing to celebrate the fact that in a book printed there the name America was first given to the western world. M. Pichon, minister of foreign affairs, is to preside at the celebration and to represent the French govern-

In the fifteenth century there existed at St. Die a college of learned canons who formed the Gymnase Vosgien, which became famous and attracted many scholars to the town. About 1507, or some thirty-five years after the death of Gutenberg, this society determined to set up a printing machine, the first or possibly the second installed in the province of Lor-

Two learned strangers who had recently arrived in the country encouraged the canons in their undertaking. furnishing some of the money needed and supervising the work. These strangers were Martin Waldseemuller of Fribourg-en-Brisgau, a noted geographer, and Mathias Ringmann, born at Val d'Orbey, a schoolmaster from Strasburg, aged twenty-five.

Lorraine Assists In Work.

The printing shop was established in a house on the Place Pierre Hardie, now called the Place Jules Ferry. The Duke of Lorraine, Rene II., looked with favor on the undertaking, and having received from Italy a description in French entitled "Quatre Navigations d'Americ Vespuce" he passed it over to Canon Jean Basin de Sandancourt for translation into Latin.

At this time Waldseemuller and Ringmann were at work on a repro duction of Ptolemy's treatise on geography, to which they were adding a preface entitled "Cosmographiae Introductio." They determined to incorporate the story of Amerigo Vespucci's voyages into this work, and Ringmann, who was acting as editor, wrote an introduction beginning:

"There is a fourth quarter of the world which Amerigo Vespucci has discovered and which for this reason we can call 'America,' or the land of Americo."

Further on he wrote:

"We do not see why the name of the man of genius, Amerigo, who has discovered them, should not be given to these lands, as Europe and Asia have adopted the names of women."

Books Bring High Prices.

The work appeared on April 25, 1507. under the title "Cosmographiae Introductio." It went through three editions, and copies nowadays bring high prices, over \$600. Something like a dozen are known to exist, but the library of St. Die, though rich in rare black letters, does not possess a copy.

The town of St. Die has often been recognized as the godmother of America. In July, 1875, Henri Bardy, president of the Vosgian Philomathic society, was invited to the international congress of Americanists as the repre-

sentative of the little town. In 1891 Frank Mason, now consul general at Paris, published a work on "The Baptismal Font of America." and in 1892 a special hall was reserved at the Chicago universal exhibition for St. Die, where with many views of the town a copy of the celebrated work was shown, open at page 30, where the name "America" first made its ap-

Announced Himself.

While looking for stragglers just as a Welsh regiment was about to sail from Cape Town for England an officer found a private standing at attention in a shed. "What are you doing here?" he was asked. "Please, sir." was the reply, "I am a lunatic, and I am waiting for the corporal's guard." He was right: he was a lunatic, and his guard had forgotten him.

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