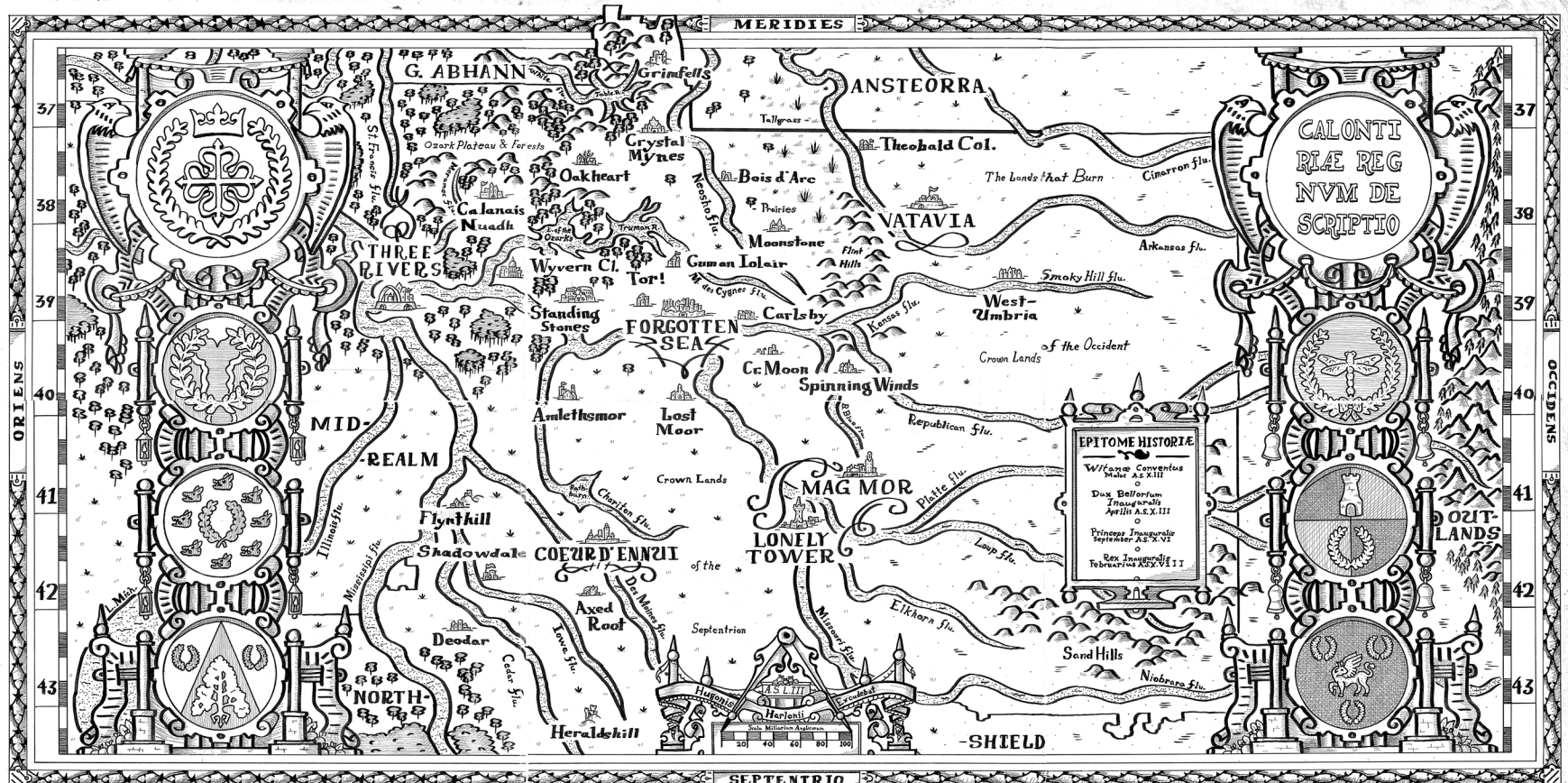# Calontiriæ Regnum Descriptio

or, *"A Description of the Kingdom of Calontir,"* being a multi-sheet wall map of the Kingdom using techniques emulating the popular printed maps of the late sixteenth century and with distinctive Mannerist-styled ornamentation ❧ Impressorem cum privilegio Hugonis Harlonii ❧ Anno Societatis L.III

Map labels (clockwise/regional): MERIDIES · G. ABHANN · Grimfells · ANSTEORRA · Theobald Col. · The Lands that Burn · Cinnercon flu. · Ozark Plateau & forests · Crystal Mynes · Bois d'Arc · VATAVIA · Oakheart · Moonstone · Prairies · Arkansas flu. · CALONTIRIÆ REGNVM DESCRIPTIO · Calanais Nuadh · Wyvern Cl. · Gumen Iolair · Smoky Hill flu. · THREE RIVERS · Tor! · des Cygnes flu. · Kansas flu. · West-Umbria · Standing Stones · Carlsby · of the Occident · FORGOTTEN SEA · Amlethsmor · Cr. Moon · Spinning Winds · Crown Lands · ORIENS · MID-REALM · Lost Moor · Republican flu. · Platte flu. · OCCIDENS · Crown Lands · MAG MOR · Loup flu. · EPITOME HISTORIÆ · Flyrthill · Shadowdale · COEUR D'ENNUI · LONELY TOWER · of the · Elkhorn flu. · OUTLANDS · Axed Root · Septentrion · Deodar · Cedar flu. · Sand Hills · NORTH- · Iowa flu. · Missouri flu. · Niobrara flu. · Heraldshill · Harlonii · -SHIELD · SEPTENTRIO

Cartouche text: EPITOME HISTORIÆ / Wifanae Conventus Model A.S.XIII / Dux Bellorum Inauguratio Aprilis A.S.XIII / Princeps Inauguratio September A.S.XVI / Rex Inauguratio Februarius A.S.XVII

Something Seems Different

WHY IS SOUTH AT THE TOP?

Our twenty-first century eyes are used to looking at maps with North at the top, but the matter of map orientation was far less settled with our early modern forebearers. Although the overwhelming majority of sixteenth and seventeenth century maps *did* have that familiar "North is up" orientation, there were a number of continental and regional pieces that did not. *See this map of Europe by Sebastian Munster, for example:*

EVROPA PRIMA NOVA TABVLA

It's confusing. Hopefuly, this new orientation forces the viewer away from familiar mundane state lines and reveals a kingdom that is at least a little bit as foreign as the myriad time and places of the past we research.

Interesting Items to Note

❧ CONTEXT: c. 1570-1615, Western Europe

❧ PROCESS: After completing the master reference, I gridded it and the actual sheets I'd use, then pencil sketched in the map before proceeding to ink with a calligraphy-nibbed, waterproof pen (emulating the ink first, colors later print process). The large 2mm size of the calligraphy pen ensured I couldn't get too detailed, and limited space impacted how accurate I could be. Color washes were applied last, on a sheet-by-sheet basis before all six sheets were adhered together.

❧ THE MAP, ITSELF: Like many inspirational cartographers from the past, *I stole!* I worked from numerous modern maps and consulted assorted Society officers to compile a master reference map of boundries, natural features, and local groups.

❧ DECORATION: The architectural-looking ornamentation is of the Mannerist style, while the border is a direct fascimile of a favorite used by Matthias Quad, a German cartographer of the era. The color palette is an accurate reflection of colors seen on mid-late sixteenth century prints, and the simple, flat application of those washes also accurately reflects how prints were painted.

❧ MATERIALS: Hot press watercolor paper, calligraphy & Micron pens (for small detail), and watercolor & gold-flake goache paints