



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Europa / das ein Drittheil der Erden / nach Gelegenheit unserer zeit beschrieben [titled in image:] Europa nach gelegenheit unserer zeit new beschrieben. [Europe / which is one-third of the Earth / described according to the circumstances of our time. / Europe newly described according to the circumstances of our time.]

Stock#: 103354
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1588
Place: Basle
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 12.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A landmark in the evolution of cartography, this is the final rendition of Europe as featured in Sebastian Munster's seminal work, *Cosmographia*, issued from a 16th-century German edition and a testament to Munster's indelible influence on the geographical knowledge of the era.

In 1588, Munster's original map of Europe, first published in 1540, was perceived as outdated and no longer reflective of contemporary geographical understanding. Consequently, a new map was designed for inclusion in Munster's *Cosmographia*, significantly influenced by the map of Europe published by Abraham Ortelius. This final map thus stands as a symbol of cartographic evolution, embodying both Munster's original vision and the progress in geographical understanding over the course of the 16th century.

An eminent scholar of Hebrew and mathematics, Sebastian Munster's contribution to cartographic publication during the mid-16th century is unparalleled. With the first mapping of Germany in 1529, he invited scholars to contribute geographical data about Germany. The enthusiastic response exceeded expectations, with the receipt of vast foreign material, providing him with contemporary—albeit not always accurate—maps for his *Geographia* published in 1540.

The *Cosmographia* and the *Geographia* were monumental in their respective impacts. The *Geographia*



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presented not only Ptolemaic maps but also pioneering modern maps, featuring the first distinct maps of the four continents, the first map of England, and the earliest available map of Scandinavia. The *Cosmographia*, first published in 1544, represented the first German description of the world and played a crucial role in the revival of geographic thought in 16th-century Europe. Approximately 40 editions of the *Cosmographia* were published between 1544 and 1628.

Detailed Condition: