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**Cosmographia Beschreibug aller Länder Durch Sebastianum Munsterum in wölcher  
begriffen.**

**Stock#:** 55658  
**Map Maker:** Münster  
**Date:** 1545  
**Place:** Basel  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 8.25 x 12.5 inches  
**Price:** \$29,000.00



**Description:**

Folio. Contemporary blind-tooled pigskin, spine in five compartments separated by raised bands, manuscript lettering in the first; original metal clasps, lacking the cover-piece on the lower of the two. (rubbed)

Collation: 28 double-page maps, 4 single-page maps in text. a-c6, [maps], A-P6, Q8, R-Z6, Aa-Zz6, AA-YY6. *Complete.*

***Second Edition of Munster's Cosmographia in a Contemporary, Unrestored Binding. The work that "sealed the fate of 'America' as the name of the New World."***

An excellent example of Munster's *Cosmographia*, one of the most successful and influential descriptions of the world published during the Renaissance, here in the second edition (first issued in 1544). Munster's *Cosmographia* was published alongside his *Geographia* (first issued in 1540) and grew to include numerous city views and other maps over its publication run. Early editions of the *Cosmographia* are seldom encountered.

The work includes a suite of modern maps as well as traditional Ptolemaic cartography. The book includes a modern and Ptolemaic world map, both highly prized as individual maps, and the first modern map of Asia.

According to Burden (12), Munster's *Cosmographia* more than his *Geographia* was the book that sealed the fate of "America" as the name of the New World.

**Munster's Map of the Americas**



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### **Cosmographia Beschreibug aller Länder Durch Sebastianum Munsterum in wölcher begriffen.**

Munster's map of America is the earliest map to show all of North and South America in a true continental form. The first edition of the map appeared in Munster's *Geographia*, first published in 1540. However, it was the map's inclusion in the 1544 edition of Munster's *Cosmographia* that forever caused America to be the name of the New World, perpetuating Waldseemuller's choice of names in a popular and widely disseminated work.

Munster's map is the earliest map to show all of the continents of America and the first to name the Pacific Ocean (Mare Pacificum). The depiction of North America is dominated by one of the most dramatic geographic misconceptions to be found on early maps—the so-called Sea of Verrazzano. The Pacific cuts deeply into North America so that the part of the coastline at this point is a narrow isthmus between two oceans. This was the result of Verrazzano mistaking the waters to the west of the Outer Banks, the long barrier islands along North Carolina as the Pacific. The division of the New World between Spain and Portugal is recognized on the map by the Castille and Leon flag planted in Puerto Rico, here called Sciana.

The map includes a host of firsts, too many to include in this description. Includes a very early appearance of the Straits of Magellan, along with his ship *Victoria* in the Pacific. The earliest appearance of Japan on a map, predating European contact and based solely legends, such as Marco Polo. The Yucatan Peninsula is shown as an Island. Lake Temistan empties into the Caribbean. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida. The misinformation provided by Verazanno is perpetuated. The map depicts cannibals in South America and names Florida.

#### **Conclusion**

Overall an incredible work of craftsmanship and science, a representation of the Renaissance worldview and known world in the 16th century.

#### **Detailed Condition:**

Overall very good. A repaired loss to MMi barely affecting text. The right section of map xiv separated and pasted in.