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[Scandinavia] Gemeine Beschreibung Aller Mitnachtigen Lander/ Schweden / Gothen / Norwegien / Denmark &c.

Stock#: 95775
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1550 circa
Place: Basle
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.5 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Arctic Atlantic

Striking example of the second Münster map of Scandinavia, first issued in 1545 and in use until 1579.

It replaced the very rare first edition of the map, which appeared in only the first three editions of Münster's *Cosmographia*.

Münster's first map relied upon the cartography of Jacob Ziegler's 1532 map. The present map, which shows nothing of North America, is based in part on the Olaus Magnus map of 1539.

The map shows Scandinavia and the fringe of Northern Europe (Germany, the Baltic states, parts of Russia). Scotland and the northeast of England are included, as are the Faroes (Fare) and Tyle.

The latter likely refers to Thule, the northernmost point known to the Greeks and Romans. Thule was also tied to discussions of a navigable northern sea, which connected it to discussions of a Northwest or Northeast Passage.

Iceland is also included, with the fiery volcano of Hekla. The volcano was famous in Europe from as early as the twelfth century, known for its violent eruption of 1104. Hekla continued to erupt regularly during Iceland's inhabited history, including, most recently before the creation of this map, in 1510.

The *Cosmographia* was hugely popular in addition to being influential for contemporary cartographers like



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Mercator and Ortelius. It was published in at least 35 editions by 1628; these editions included examples in German, Latin, French, Italian, English, and Czech.

Münster was widely traveled himself, but he also gathered sources for the work from ancient and more modern sources. These included Herodotus, Strabo, and Titius Livius, as well as Marcantonio Sabellico, Beatus Rhenanus, and Aegidius Tschudi. He additionally collected reports from recent travelers, which he integrated into his descriptions. These descriptions included detailed overviews of the customs, dress, and organization of peoples around the world, earning him a prominent place in the histories of geography and anthropology.

Detailed Condition: