



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Tabula Asiae XI [Southeast Asia]

**Stock#:** 95794  
**Map Maker:** Munster  
**Date:** 1542  
**Place:** Basle  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 13.5 x 10.5 inches  
**Price:** \$ 975.00



### Description:

Sebastian Munster's 1540 map, *Tabula Asiae XI*, represents a rare early depiction of the Indian Ocean and contiguous regions, extending from Southeast Asia to the Ganges River and north to the Himalayas. Based on Ptolemaic geography and devoid of a passage to the Pacific, this map is a significant part of Munster's renowned work, *Geographia*, and showcases the cartographic conventions of the 16th century.

Munster's contributions to cartography in the 16th century were profound, not only in terms of technical mastery but also in the way he integrated classical geography with contemporary information. *Geographia*, first issued in 1540, was a landmark compilation that incorporated Ptolemaic maps alongside modern maps of the time. The inclusion of the first separate maps of the four continents and the earliest obtainable map of Scandinavia attests to the innovative nature of Munster's work. *Tabula Asiae XI* reflects this innovation and serves as a valuable window into both the geographical knowledge and misconceptions of the period.

The map's content, influenced by the writings of Ptolemy, reveals a blend of empirical observation and classical tradition. The inclusion of place names such as "Ciuitates Samba, Berabona, Be gynga, Perimula," along with the note "Habet hæc India tigres, gallos barbatos, psittacos albos &c." and the related woodcut illustration, reflects a curiosity and fascination with distant lands. These elements not only provide geographical details but also enrich the map with cultural and natural features, offering a multifaceted view of Southeast Asia and the surrounding areas.

Sebastian Munster's influence extended beyond cartography. As a linguist and mathematician, his



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scholarly pursuits added depth to his geographical works. His call for geographical information led to an influx of foreign material, some of which might not have been entirely accurate but provided a rich and nuanced cartographic picture. In the context of the intellectual environment of the 16th century, *Tabula Asiae XI* represents a synthesis of science, art, and exploration, epitomizing the spirit of Renaissance humanism and the quest for knowledge.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor marginal soiling.