



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

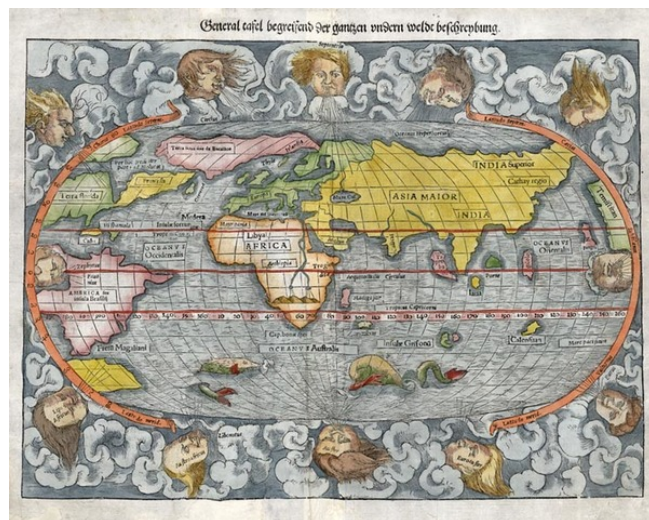
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## General Tafel begreifend Der gantzen undern weldt beschrenbung [Modern World]

**Stock#:** 12722  
**Map Maker:** Munster  
**Date:** 1554  
**Place:** Basle  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG-  
**Size:** 15 x 11 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Very early example of Munster's map of the modern world, one of the earliest obtainable maps of the modern world. This example is from the first woodblock, which was used until 1548. The map is richly embellished with sea monsters and 12 windheads. The map first appeared in the 1540 edition of Munster's *Geographia*. This example, with German title, is rare on the market, with only one example listed in the prior 25 years (Suarez 1992). The map is based upon a mix of information derived from Verrazano's explorations (1522-24) which mistook the Chesapeake for the Indian Ocean and Cartier's voyages (1534-35) up the St. Lawrence in search of the Northwest Passage. The west coast of America appears on the right side of the map. This is also the first map to name the Pacific Ocean (*Mare Pacificum*). Munster is non-committal as to the continuity of North and South America, an unbroken Central America being implied but not clearly shown. Though unnamed, *Terra Australis* is present but small, only serving to form the Magellan Strait. All of North America is called *Terra Florida*. Munster here adds further to the current confusion over Taprobana and Ceylon, depicting a Sumatra-shaped Tapbana on the west side of the Indian subcontinent, and Java in the approximately correct size and position of Sri Lanka. Several lengthy repaired tears and some restoration within the printed image and margins, but virtually invisible except on close inspection. Early examples of Munster's world map, from the first plate, are now quite scarce on the market. Shirley 77.

### Detailed Condition: