



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Die Lander Asie nach ihrer gelegenheit bisz in Indiam werden in dieser Tafeln verzeichnet

Stock#: 57009
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1550 circa
Place: Basle
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.5 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Map of the Asian Continent

Nice example of the first printed map of the continent Asia, first published by Sebastian Munster in 1540.

The map shows Asia from the Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf to the Pacific. The Pacific Ocean shows an archipelago of 7448 islands, a forerunner to the better understanding of Southeast Asia, which is largely unrecognizable, although Java Minor and Major, Porne (Borneo), Moluca and several other islands are named. The map does not include Japan, which appears on the map of America. The northeastern coast of Asia is also omitted. The map also includes a large sea monster and mermaid type creature.

Although largely based on Ptolemy's work, the map incorporates some of the more recent Portuguese discoveries. The outlines of the Indian subcontinent, between the Indus and the Ganges rivers are now in a more recognizable form, with "Zaylon" (Sri Lanka) correctly shown as an island. The Portuguese outpost of Goa and Calicut, the first place where Vasco da Gama landed in 1497, are depicted. Further to the east "Taprobana" is also designated as "Sumatra." The Portugese trading port of "Malaqua" is shown. Java is depicted as two separate islands. "Moloca," center of the spice island trade and the object of considerable conflict between Spain and Portugal is shown. The resolution of the dispute was the official purpose of Magellan's epic circumnavigation. The treatment of "Cathay" (China) is consistent with the writings of Marco Polo and other Venetian travellers.



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Detailed Condition: