



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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**Cosmographia. B(e)schreibu(n)g aller Lender ... in wölcher begriffen. Aller Völcker Herrschafften, Stetten unnd namhafftiger flecken, härkommen, Sitten, gebreüch ... durch die gantze welt, und fürnemlich Teutscher nation... Allenthalben fast seer gemeret und gebessert, auch mit einem zugelegten Register vil breüchlicher gemacht.**

**Stock#:** 61254  
**Map Maker:** Munster  
**Date:** 1546  
**Place:** Basel  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 8 x 12 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



## Description:

### ***Third Edition of Munster's Cosmographia with his World Maps, Asia, Africa, and the Famous Map of the Americas***

Münster's influential *Cosmographia*, which includes his important map of the Americas, was the first German-language description of the world. It is one of the defining books of the Renaissance.

The volume contains 28 woodcut maps and numerous woodcuts interspersed with informative text. The most renowned of these woodcuts is that of a rhino, fashioned after Albrecht Durer's celebrated image of the animal. The maps are two world maps (Shirley maps 76 and 77), sixteen maps of Europe (not including Germany), four of Germany, three of Asia, a decorative map of the Holy Land (Laor 526), one of Africa, and a map of the Americas (Burden map 12, State 3).

The map of the Americas is especially significant, for it "sealed the fate of 'America' as the name for the New World", as Burden explains. The map mentions New France and Florida, as well as Brasil, all early toponyms used to describe portions of North and South America. It also includes "Americam" or American, cementing the use of that toponym to describe the continents. This map was one of the first to show the Americas in such recognizable continental form and an early adopter of *Mare Pacificum* for the Pacific Ocean.

Münster was widely traveled himself, but he also gathered sources for the work from ancient and more



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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.

First published in 1540, this is a complete copy of the third German edition of the *Cosmographia*, published in Basel in 1546. The *Cosmographia* was hugely popular in addition to being influential for contemporary cartographers like Mercator and Ortelius. It was published in at least 35 editions by 1628; these editions included examples in Latin, French, Italian, English, and Czech.

### **Collation**

14 pages, 818 pages, 1 page. Eighteenth-century calf, spine labeled and gilt.

### **Provenance**

The title-page contains a previous ownership inscription of the monastery of Scheyern and their library stamp is on the verso. This is a deaccessioned duplicate from the Bavarian State Library.

### **Detailed Condition:**

Little browning and minor dampmarking to places, minor worming (1-4 holes) throughout, increasing towards the end, very occasional staining, very few old restored marginal tears, leaf Ff2 with restored paper flaw, leaves Bb, Ee3 and map of America and Bavaria with restored torn away corner with only minor loss of border line to the map of Bavaria; the maps with faint browning and little dampmarking at gutter, 12 maps and last leaf of index with tear at gutter.