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## [Early Photographic Facsimile - The Sebastian Cabot World Map of A.D. 1544]

**Stock#:** 66473  
**Map Maker:** Stevenson / Cabot  
**Date:** 1544 (circa 1900)  
**Place:** n.p.  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 35 x 20 inches (If Joined)  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Early photographic facsimile of the renowned Sebastian Cabot world map of 1544. The original, held by the BNF and obtained from a Bavarian source in 1844, is the only known surviving example of this map showing the world, displaying important information on Spanish New World possessions.

The text blocks on the map state that this map was made by Sebastian Cabot in 1544, at which time he was working for Emperor Charles V as Pilot-Major. The son of John Cabot, discoverer of North America, he had access to many private documents which were critical in the mapping of the New World.

The mapping shown is critical and cutting edge. California is drawn following the famous Castillo map of 1541. The Canadian coastline is well-developed, showing the river and bay of Lawrence. Newfoundland is shown as a group of islands. Japan appears, and the Maritime Continent starts to take shape.

The map has a long and storied history. Published in Antwerp, as the Spanish government prohibited any proprietary dissemination of information regarding their New World, this map enjoyed great prestige in the first few years of its life. Several late 16th-century references to the map exist, one of which, by the scholar Nathan Kochhaff at Oxford, refers to a 1549 Latin edition. Ortelius refers to the map in his *Theatrum*, and Queen Elizabeth had an example made for her, which would have been one of the earliest examples of English map engraving (see Hakluyt quoted by Sir Raymond Beazley). Subsequently, the map disappeared for over two and half centuries, only to resurface in a Bavarian castle.

### Detailed Condition:

Early photographic facsimile on two sheets.