Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

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Stock#:	71235
Map Maker:	Munster
Date:	1570 circa
Place:	Basel
Color:	Hand Colored
Condition:	VG+
Size:	7 x 11 inches
Price:	SOLD

Description:

This is a nice full-color example of Munster's map of Europe in the shape of a queen. The regent's head and crown constitute the Iberian Peninsula, her arms Italy and Denmark, and her dress the countries from France to Bulgaria. In what might be interpreted as a political statement, Great Britain and Ireland are tiny, insignificant islands from which the queen turns her head.

Organizing maps after human forms dates from at least the Middle Ages and continues to this day. The first known example of a printed Europa Regina map was Putsch's 1537 map, and his close relation to the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand I has been taken to mean that his map represents Habsburg power in

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Europe. Evidence on this is limited, however, and it can be seen that the present map offers little in the way of support to this theory. While the Habsburg's long rival, England, is depicted as insignificant, one of only two cities named in Europe is Paris, capital of a Habsburg rival power. While tempting to ascribe political statements to maps such as these, one must be skeptical of overly grand interpretations.

Few mapmakers chose to portray Europe in such a manner, and maps such as these from the late 16th century are scarce. This work appeared in Munster's *Cosmographia*.

Detailed Condition: