



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Munster World -- First Woodblock!] General tafel begreifend der gantzen undern welt beschreibung

Stock#: 78354
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1545
Place: Basle
Color:
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the Earliest Obtainable Maps to Name America

First edition of Munster's map of the World, one of the most recognized world maps of the 16th century and one of the earliest reasonable obtainable maps to name America.

This example of Munster's map is from the first woodblock (1540-1545), which can be distinguished from the editions of 1550 and after, the later editions being significantly revised and including the initials (DK) of the engraver David Kandel.

The map is based upon a mix of information derived from Verrazano's explorations (1522-24), which mistook the Chesapeake for the Pacific 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 1st 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 Taprobana on the west side of the Indian subcontinent, and Java in the approximately correct size and position of Sri Lanka.

The name America first appeared on a 1507 Waldseemuller map of the world, which is known in a single



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**[Munster World -- First Woodblock!] General tafel begreifend der gantzen undern weldt
beschrenbung**

example held by the Library of Congress. The first obtainable map to name America was the 1520 Apian World map, which is quite rare. Subsequent world maps between 1520 and 1540 include maps by Oronce Fine, Munster/Holbein and Lorenz Fries and are considerably scarcer than the present map.

Detailed Condition: