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Die erst General Tafel / Die Beschreibung und den Circkel des gantzen Erdtrichs und Deeres innhaltende

Stock#: 78587
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1590 circa
Place: Basel
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An Updated Map of the World From Munster's Cosmographia.

A decorative example of this revised and updated map of the world, based upon Abraham Ortelius' world map, which appeared in Munster's *Cosmographia* after 1588. The map is intriguingly designed, including many curious details such as arctic islands and a massive continent at the south pole. Detail abounds throughout the map, including ships and sea monsters in the oceans. The map is framed by a pattern made of golden leaves. German text at the top describes the regions and political powers of the world, while the bottom text appears to focus on the New World, mentioning New Spain, "New India," and New France.

The map includes a marvelous depiction of the Northwest and Northeast passages. The massive unknown southern continent (Terra Australis Nondum Cognita) is retained, as are references drawn from Marco Polo's travels, including the location of Beach near modern-day Australia. Japan is shown, as are the Kingdoms of Quivira and Anian on the West Coast of North America. Florida, Nova Francia Granada, and Nova Hispania are other regional names depicted in North America. The depiction of Southeast Asia, China, and Korea is fascinating.

The map was first designed for the 1588 version of Munster's *Cosmographia* by Sebastien Petri. This latter had inherited the role of publishing copies of *Cosmographia* from his father and chose to update the maps. Many maps were based on Ortelius's earlier maps, as previously mentioned, though Petri decided to substitute Munster's woodcut printing for Ortelius's copperplate style. This map appeared in the 1588,



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1592, 1614, 1615, and 1628 issues of *Cosmographia*.

Overall, the map is elegant in its simplicity and stark depictions of the coasts, rivers, and inland seas of the world.

Detailed Condition: