



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

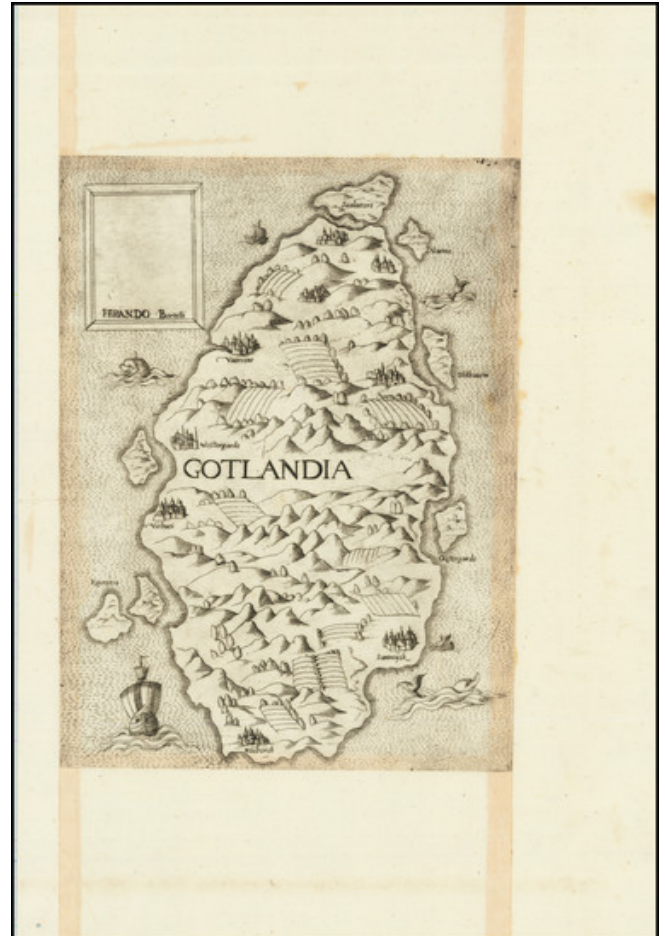
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Gotlandia

Stock#: 75001
Map Maker: Bertelli
Date: 1560 circa
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 8 x 10.3 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce, Lafreri School Map of the Island of Gotland

Rare and early map of Gotland, engraved by Ferrando Bertelli in Venice in ca. 1560.

The map illustrates the important Swedish island of Gotland, a bustling commercial center in the sixteenth century.

The island is shown with rolling hills, plowed fields, and stands of trees. Several villages hug the coastline. Sea monsters roam nearby, while ships big and small are traversing the waters. A simple, stately cartouche adorns the upper left corner; it is empty save for the name of the map's maker.



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Gotlandia

Gotland

Today, Gotland is Sweden's largest island. The traditional home of the Gutes, the island has had a political relationship with the Swedish crown from at least the late ninth century. It was an important locale for the Vikings and the largest Viking silver treasure, the Spillings Hoard, was found on the island in 1999.

In the Medieval period, Gotland became an important commercial center; Visby, the largest city, was a leading city of the Hanseatic League, one of the most important in the Baltic Sea. Indeed, the city and the rest of the island were administered separately, causing discontent and civil strife.

In 1361, the island was invaded by the Danes, resulting in the death of many of Gotland's farmers. In 1394, the Victual Brothers took the island, closely followed by the Teutonic Knights, who made it part of their fiefdom. The Grand Master of the Knights sold the island to Queen Margaret of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden in 1409. After passing hands several more times, the island came under Swedish rule, where it has remained since 1645.

Rarity

The map is rare on the market. This is the first example we have ever seen.

Detailed Condition:

Margins added, in the style of Lafreri school maps.