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(Sri Lanka) Tabula XII. Asiae [Title on verso]

Stock#: 103188
Map Maker: Fries
Date: 1535
Place: Strassburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 11 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

Important early modern map of Taprobana, from Fries *Geographia*.

This is an early woodblock map of the island of Taprobana, which depicts the typical misconceptions of Ptolemy showing the island greatly enlarged, surrounded by imaginary islands, and with a small part of India incorrectly drawn in the northeast corner of the map. Taprobana was drawn too large on most early maps due, in part, to its importance to trade between Europe and Southeast Asia. Also, Marco Polo stated that the island had a circumference of 2400 miles and had been even larger in the past. This map is largely based on the 1513 map by Waldseemuller, with the addition of more of the spurious Indian coastline and more small islands to the east of Ceylon. The title is on the verso along with Latin text and elaborate ornamental border, thought to be the work of Hans Holbein and Graf of Basel. The editor of this Latin edition, Michael Villanovus (better known as Servetus), was subsequently tried for heresy and burned at the stake in 1553, ostensibly because of derogatory comments in the atlas about the Holy Land.

Detailed Condition:

Woodcut on 16th-century laid paper. Minor show-through from verso.