Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Islandia

Stock#: 56248
Map Maker: Mercator

Date: 1619 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19.5 x 14 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice old color example of the Mercator map of Iceland.

This engaging map shows all of the island of Iceland, dominated by a fiery volcano, while seas off of its craggy shores are inhabited by a large Sea Monster and icebergs. The map is based on Gerard Mercator's map of 1595, and shows that the geography of Iceland was already by this time quite well understood, as many mariners had visited its shores while taking advantage of its rich fishing grounds. At the same time, the island had an almost magical and mysterious place in the minds of contemporary Europeans. With its active volcanoes and exceptionally rough seas, many sincerely believed the land and waters to be inhabited by fierce creatures.

The map was originally published by Jodocus Hondius (1563 - 1612), a Flemish-Dutch engraver, and cartographer. He is best known for his early maps of the New World and Europe, for reinvigorating the groundbreaking work of Gerard Mercator. Critically, he helped to establish Amsterdam as the leading center of 18th Century cartography.

Hondius was born in Ghent but left Flanders to escape the religious turmoil that was affecting the region. He settled in London and became instrumental in publicizing the work of Francis Drake, who had made a circumnavigation of the world from 1577 to 1579. In 1593, he moved to Amsterdam, capital of the flourishing Dutch Republic, where he remained until the end of his life. In co-operation with the Amsterdam publisher Cornelis Claesz., in 1604, he purchased the plates of Gerard Mercator's Atlas from Mercator's grandson. Gerard Mercator (1512-1594), found that his work had languished in comparison to that of his rival Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1570). Hondius republished Mercator's work with 36 additional maps, yet honorably gave Mercator full credit as the author of the work. Hondius's

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new edition of Mercator's atlas was a great success, selling out after a year. Hondius later published a second edition, as well as a pocket version *Atlas Minor*. The maps have since become known as the "Mercator/Hondius series". Upon Hondius's death, his work was continued by his widow and two sons, Jodocus II and Henricus, and son-in-law Johannes Janssonius. The present map is from an edition of Mercator's atlas produced by his heirs.

A fine example of an important map of one of the most treasured subjects in map collecting.

Detailed Condition:
Old color. Some soiling and color offsetting.