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(First Map of Ischia) Insula Aenaria Hodie Ischia

Stock#: 75120
Map Maker: Cartaro & Iasolino
Date: 1586
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 20.5 x 14.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Map of Ischia. The Basis for an Ortelius Map. From the Author of the First Work on Medical Hydrotherapy.

Fantastic original antique map of the volcanic island of Ischia off the coast of Naples, Mario Cartaro and Giulio Iasolino.

This is the first printed map to focus on the island, and the only map of the island printed in Italy in the 16th century. The primary author, Mario Cartaro, had recently moved to Naples, where he was commissioned together with Nicola Antonio Stigliola to compile an atlas of the entire Kingdom of Naples and would become one of the cities most important engineers.

The map is fantastically decorated, showing the island with its imposing central volcano. Down the flanks of the central mountains are a number of fields, towns, and more. The map shows an extraordinary attention to detail, even by Lafreri School standards. Notice, for example, the aqueduct leading around the Mons Stabiae, the marvelous castled city of Ischia, or the numerous ships and sea monsters that can be found in the coastal waters.

The work is dedicated to Isabellae Della Rovere, a daughter of the Duke of Urbino and wife of Niccolo Bernardino Sanservino, Prince of Bisignano. She was an important patron of Naples, founding the Chiesa del Gesù Nuovo and the Casa Professa dei Padri Gesuiti, as well as supporting her Jesuit followers. The map includes an extremely extensive index, spanning one-hundred-and-sixty-seven places of interest. A scale bar, a fantastic compass rose, and copious notes dot the map.



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The map was produced by Giulio Iasolino and engraved by Mario Cartaro. Iasolino, a 17th-century expert on anatomy of Calabrian origins, was writing a treatise at the time that discussed the use of the thermal baths of Ischia for their medical benefits. His *De Rimedi Naturali Che Sono Nell'Isola Di Pithecusa* appeared in 1587, though it does not appear that it was issued with the map, as only very few copies of the book in institutions contain the presented map. Thus, it is almost certain that this map was issued separately, as concluded by Bifulco and Ronca.

Iasolino and Cartaro's map formed the basis for all maps of the island for nearly two hundred years. The map would rise to prominence outside Italy after its inclusion in Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, first appearing in the 1590 edition under the name *Ischia, quae olim Aenaria*. . . It would be republished in northern Europe by other engravers, including Jansson, but there are no known Italian 16th-century reprints.

Rarity

We have been unable to trace any separate examples of this map having been on the market, though it does appear that Nebenzahl owned it in a Lafreri composite. Bifulco and Ronca list the following additional examples: Bergamo; Newberry Library; BNF (2); and this example.

It should be noted that Bifulco and Ronca's census is unusually thorough, and thus this map can be considered extremely rare.

Detailed Condition:

Repaired tear in left of map, slightly into image.