



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## (First state!) [ Sri Lanka -- with Elephant ] Tabula Asiae XII

**Stock#:** 94627  
**Map Maker:** Munster  
**Date:** 1540  
**Place:** Basle  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 13.5 x 10 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *Rare First State*

Finely colored example of Sebastian Munster's map of Taprobana, the island of Ceylon, which was sometimes confused with Sumatra on early maps.

The map was first issued in the 1540 edition of Munster's *Geographia*.

Taprobana was an important post for trade between the east and the west, and was drawn too large on many maps because of its importance. Marco Polo states: It has a circumference of some 2400 miles. And I assure you that it used to be bigger than this. For it was once as much as 3500 miles, as appears in the mariners' charts of this sea. But the north wind blows so strongly in these parts that it has submerged a great part of this island under the sea. Many myths existed concerning Taprobana. It was believed to be the burial place of Adam, on Mount Serendib. The Great Khan reportedly made a mission to the Island in 1284 to retrieve Adam's teeth and other artifacts.

### Detailed Condition: