Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.
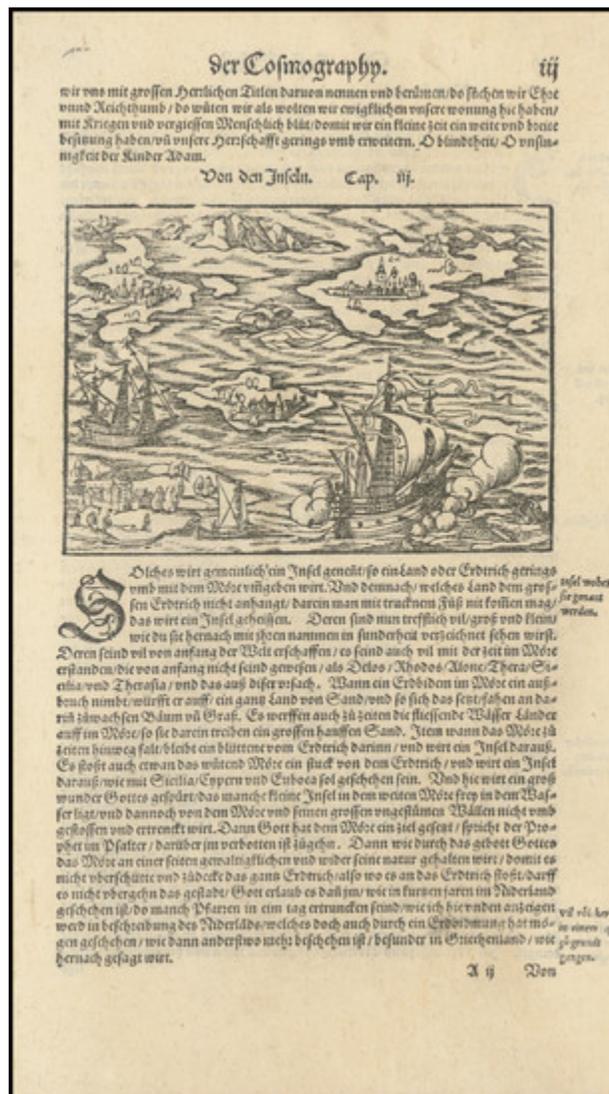
Von den Inseln

Stock#: 97783

Map Maker: Munster

Date: 1570 circa

Place: Basle

Color: Uncolored

Condition: VG

Size: 6 x 4 inches

Price: $ 175.00

Description:

Fantasy map showing islands, ships and sea monsters.

Some writers have suggested that this is Columbus's ships sailing through the West Indies, with several sea monsters.

The text translates as follows:

Von den Inseln

An island is commonly called a piece of land that is surrounded by the sea. Accordingly, any land that is not attached to the large mainland, where one cannot reach with dry feet, is called an island. There are now a great many of these, large and small, as you will see listed in detail with their names. Some have been created since the beginning of the world, and many have arisen over time in the sea, which initially did not exist, such as Delos, Rhodes, Alone, Thera, Sicily, and Therapia. For example, when an earthquake occurs in the sea, it raises an entire land of sand, and when that settles, trees and grass begin to grow there. Sometimes flowing rivers also create lands in the sea by driving a large heap of sand into it. Also, when the sea recedes, a piece of mainland remains, becoming an island. Occasionally, the raging sea breaks off a piece of the mainland, turning it into an island, as has fully happened with Sicily, Cyprus, and Euboea. And here a great wonder of God is felt: that many small islands lie freely in the wide sea, yet are not toppled and drowned by the sea and its great tumultuous waves. For God has set a limit to the sea, says the prophet in the Psalms, beyond which it is forbidden to go. For as by God's command the sea is forcefully and unnaturally held back on one side so that it does not overflow and cover the entire mainland, so too where it meets the mainland it may not go beyond the shore, unless God permits it, as has happened in recent years in the Netherlands, where many parishes have drowned in a day, as I will indicate below in the description of the Netherlands. This could also have been caused by an earthquake, as has happened more elsewhere, especially in Greece, as will be said later.

Detailed Condition: