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Frisland (Mythical Island in the Atlantic)

Stock#: 96993
Map Maker: Bertelli
Date: 1560
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 7.5 x 10 inches
Price: \$ 7,500.00



Description:

The Only 16th Century Map of the Mythical Island of Frisland

First state of the only 16th Century map of the mythical island of Frisland in the North Atlantic.

In the annals of cartographic history, few tales are as intriguing as those of phantom islands that, for centuries, dotted the world maps only to vanish in the light of better exploration. Frisland, a fictitious island in the North Atlantic, is one such mythical place that occupied the imaginative landscapes of medieval mapmakers and navigators. Its existence, albeit fictitious, and its eventual erasure from maps offer profound insights into the evolving nature of cartography and the interplay between myth, commerce, and exploration.

The story of Frisland is deeply embedded in the chronicles of European exploration during the Middle Ages. Frisland was commonly believed to be situated somewhere between Iceland and Greenland. Frisland began to make regular appearances on maps during the 16th and 17th centuries. The famed Zeno map of 1558, which was said to depict a 14th-century voyage by the Zeno brothers of Venice, prominently



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featured Frisland.

What is truly remarkable about the present map Frisland is its detail, here show with mountains, bays, settlements and even what appears to be organized farming land, suggesting that mapmakers had elaborate descriptions of the island. Yet no explorer ever set foot there. Its portrayal was purely speculative, drawing from narratives, popular myths, and highly questioned accounts, such as the story of Nicolo Zeno's voyage, which reportedly reached Frisland in about 1380.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare on the market.

There are at least 2 states of the map, with a later state bearing the imprint of *Pietro de Nobilis formis*.

Detailed Condition: