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Angliae Scotiae & Hibernie nova descriptio

Stock#: 45057
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1564 (20th Century)
Place: Duisburg
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 17.5 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Title Section From Gerard Mercator's Wall Map of the British Isles (20th Century Facsimile)

Early 20th Century facsimile of the title section and central part of this larger wall map of British Isles by Gerard Mercator. The map dates from 1564 and was produced in Duisburg and is now

Mercator's wall map was a major new depiction of the British Isles at the time. It is a giant map, measuring approximately 3ft by 4ft and was engraved on 8 copper plates by Mercator himself, drawn on a scale of 14 miles to 1 inch.

It is likely that the draft from which Mercator developed this image of the British Isles was made by either Laurence Nowell or John Rudd, to whom Christopher Saxton was apprenticed. A few years before Mercator's map was published, Laurence Nowell had produced pen-and-ink drawings of the British isles



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and by 1563 had compiled a manuscript atlas of 19 sheets which was never printed. It is possible that Nowell's unpublished atlas could have been used by Mercator as a source.

The significant developments made by Mercator's depiction is that the outline of Wales is considerably improved with the Bay of Cardigan shown for the very first time and Scotland is more accurately represented than previously, so much so that it remained unchanged on subsequent maps for the next 100 years. There are still inaccuracies though, notably that the representation of Ireland is incorrect, and the south coast of England is exaggerated in length by 15%, although it features more place names than before.

A nice decorative facsimile example of an unobtainable original.

Detailed Condition:

Margins extended for framing.