



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Abraham Ortelius and Georg Hoefnagel] Vera deliniatio lacus Aniani, Antriq, letalis . . .

Stock#: 56386mp2
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1581 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 12.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

With Abraham Ortelius in the Foreground!

Two views from east and west of Lake Agnano and the extinct city of Cumae, Italy by Braun and Hogenberg. These views are engraved after drawings by Georg Hoefnagel.

The Grotto of the Cumaenan Sibyl

The verso translates as follows:

On the way to Lake Averno from Cumae, an exceedingly famous and ancient city in Campania, is the Sibyl's grotto. This cave is carved into the rock in a wondrous and unique fashion. It is generally believed that this is where the Sibyl of Cumaea lived.

This is a view of Lake Averno from the east, with the entrance to the Sibyl's grotto and the temple of Apollo. In the middle we see Hoefnagel and Ortelius engaged in conversation. The inscription at their feet reveals they are discussing both the etymology of the place name and its ancient context; they are making an empirical examination of the classical texts: The Greek name means "birdless", it could be taken to be the entrance to Hades. Yet Hoefnagel points demonstratively to the five ducks in the middle of the lake, thus refuting claims that Lake Averno was the entrance to the Underworld in this day (information by Stephan Pelgen). Earlier commentators have suggested that Hoefnagel and Ortelius are pointing to the temple of Apollo, thus failing to appreciate the inherent humor of the illustration and its inscriptions.



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Abraham Ortelius and Georg Hoefnagel] Vera deliniatio lacus Aniani, Antriq, letalis . . .

Lake Agnano

The verso text translates as follows

Lake Agnano is not far from the city of Pozzuoli, with a broad shore all around it. Near Pozzuoli there are blow holes, others call them the caves of Charon, which emit a deadly vapour. There is a cave deep in the rock, with a sign next to it warning people not to approach it too closely.

The second view, which is as ornately framed as the first, shows the volcanic Lake Agnano with the Grotta del Cane (Dog's Cave), so called because gases rise constantly from its floor up to a height of about 45 cm, so that a dog, upon entering it, immediately becomes unconscious. The lake was probably first formed in the Middle Ages, since it is not mentioned by the authors of classical antiquity; it was drained in 1870. To the right of the lake are the Stufe di San Germano, chambers in which the hot sulphur gases are stored for medicinal purposes. As in the plate of Pozzuoli and Baia, the instructive inscriptions make reference to the discussion between artist and scholar.

Detailed Condition:

Old color. Some soiling and offsetting . Archivally backed with a thin layer of paper.