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[Munster's Famous Chart of Sea Monsters] Meerwunder und Seltzame Thier / Wie Die In Den Nitnacßtigen Landern Gefunden Werden

Stock#: 68566
Map Maker: Munster

Date: 1570
Place: Basle
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Good
Size: 13.5 x 10.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the Most Famous 16th Century Charts of Mythical Sea Monsters.

This is a fantastical index of monsters, both aquatic and terrestrial. Produced by Munster, the ideas for the monsters were adapted from Olaus Magnus's 1539 *Carta Marina.*

On land, the monsters are tusked, furred, fanged and horned. One sleigh rider successfully harnesses a caribou, while a religious figure fights a snake. Some of these monsters are evidently adapted from real beasts, while others are not. At sea, any relation to real fauna is difficult to imagine. A fanged, horse-headed monster growls at a ship full of sailors. Another ship is taken down by a sea serpent. With the exception of massive lobster and a truly terrifying duck-birthing tree, the rest of the animals evade explanation and even description.

The work draws inspiration from the *Carta Marina*, a navigational map of Scandinavia, Iceland, and the Baltic region, and one of the most important maps of northern Europen. All copies of the map were lost until the 18th century, so it survived only in works such as this chart, from which it drew inspiration. The Munster version of the monsters would be adapted by Abraham Ortelius for his 1587 map of Iceland, and this work would go on to influence many other 16th and 17th century mapmakers.

This is one of the most sought-after of all 16th-century curiosities. The work first appeared in Munster's *Cosmographiae Universalis.*

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Detailed Condition:
Some soiling and minor restoration along centerfold.