



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Poland) Saxonum Regionis Quatenus Eius Gentis Imperium Nomenque olim patebat, recens germanaque deleatio, Christiano Schrotenio autore . . .

Stock#: 86395
Map Maker: de Jode
Date: 1578
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18 x 13 inches
Price: \$ 1,600.00



Description:

Fine example of Gerard de Jode's map of northern Germany and western Poland, naming many cities and towns throughout the region.

Gerard de Jode's map of Saxonum Regionis is notable for its intricate geographical detail. With impressive precision, it delineates the territories of what would now encompass parts of Germany, Denmark, and western Poland. Notably, the map represents the extent of the Saxon Empire, a significant historical state of early medieval Europe.

The map stands out not just for its geographical accuracy but also for its artistic flourishes. The North Sea is enlivened by the presence of a sea monster, a common embellishment in maps of the period that speaks to the period's mixture of scientific curiosity and imaginative speculation. On the Baltic Sea, a sailing ship is depicted, reflecting the region's maritime culture and the importance of seafaring for trade, exploration, and warfare.

The map's engraver, Johannes van Deutecum, lends his artistic touch to the map's design. The map is drawn from the work of Christian Sgrothen (also known as Christianus Schrot), a significant cartographer of the 16th century (see below).

The geopolitics of the Saxon region during the second half of the 16th century was complex and dynamic. This was a period marked by the growing power of centralized monarchies, the struggle between Protestantism and Catholicism, and the ongoing conflict between the Habsburg Empire and its rivals. The



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Saxon region, part of the broader Holy Roman Empire, was characterized by a complex patchwork of duchies, bishoprics, free cities, and other types of territories. The map, therefore, serves as a visual representation of this political fragmentation.

Christian Sgrothen

Christian Sgrothen (1525 - 1603) is regarded as a significant cartographer of the 16th century, comparable to Gerhard Mercator.

Sgrothen worked as a painter and cartographer in Kalkar on the Lower Rhine, where he became a citizen in 1548 and purchased a house on the market square in 1553. Around 1555, Sgrothen started the first mapping of the Lower Rhine region. On December 2, 1557, he began serving the Spanish King Philip II as a court cartographer ("Geographus Regiae Maiestatis Hispaniae").

The government in Brussels initially assigned him to map the Dutch provinces and surrounding regions, a task for which Sgrothen traveled throughout the entire Lower German region. In 1568, Sgrothen started his major work, the mapping of the Holy Roman Empire, completed in two versions in 1572/73 and 1592 but never published. He died in Kalkar in 1603 and was buried in the church of the Dominican monastery.

Sgrothen's work represents the most crucial mapping of the Lower Rhine in the 16th century and was the foundation for Mercator's maps of the region. In 1558, a map of the Duchy of Guelders and the County of Zutphen was published in Antwerp, followed by a map of the Duchy of Geldern in 1564, a map of Germany in 1565, and a map of the Holy Land in 1570. His works also include a photograph of the fortifications of Amsterdam (1566).

Sgrothen's primary work took 25 years to complete. He was the first to systematically map the territory of the Holy Roman Empire commissioned by royalty. The first version, known as the "Brussels Atlas" from 1572/73, includes 38 maps of Central Europe in the format 66 × 64 cm, while the second version from 1592, the "Madrid Atlas", contains 33 maps of Europe and several world and Orient maps in the format 83 × 64 cm. They cover the area between Denmark and the Adriatic Sea and between Flanders and Poland, with a focus on the northern German states. These atlases are considered among the most beautiful maps of the Renaissance era, and their names reflect their current locations.

The present example is from the first edition of De Jode's work, which can be distinguished from the second edition by the pagination on the verso (it is paginated using Roman numerals rather than Arabic). The map first appeared in the rare first edition (of two) of De Jode's *Speculum Orbis Terrarum*. At least one commentator has opined that as few as 11 known complete examples of the first edition are known to



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have survived, making separate maps from this first edition very rare on the market.

Detailed Condition:

Reinstatement to paper in upper left margin, not affecting image. On verso, a "V" is visible, partly obscured by this loss. Minor see-through from verso.