



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

## (Western China) Asiae VIII Tab

**Stock#:** 89159  
**Map Maker:** Mercator  
**Date:** 1584 circa  
**Place:** Cologne  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 16 x 14 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *Includes Anthropophagi and Hippophagi*

Mercator's map of western China, showing the regions known since Ptolemaic times as Serica and eastern Scythia.

Scythia and Serica were both empires during Europe's classical antiquity, with Scythia forming a loose nomadic empire stretching from Eastern Europe to the edge of China. Less is known about Serica, but it is most commonly thought that this was the part of China reached by the overland silk route, in contrast to Sinae, which was the part of China more easily reached by sea.

Toward the top, map includes vignettes of Scythians who eat horses (Hippophagi) and humans (Anthropophagi).

Much of the knowledge presented on the map remains Ptolemaic. The cities, mountains, and rivers shown are all originally from a Ptolemaic projection, updated here to be located on Mercator's rectangular projection. It would take well into the 19th century for these little-visited regions to be mapped extensively by Europeans.

There is a note in the cartouche in the upper-right which reads: *Medius meridianus 160, ad quem applicantur reliqui iuxta rationes parallelorum 42 & 54.*



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**Detailed Condition:**