

Engraved map, watermark of a letter ‘M’ under star in shield.

THE ONLY MAP OF SRI LANKA PUBLISHED BY THE LAFRERI SCHOOL

Taprobana.

Author
[?LAFRERI, Antonio]

Publication date
c1570].

Publisher
A. Lafreri,

Publication place
[Rome,

Physical description
Engraved map, watermark of a letter ‘M’ under star in shield.

Dimensions
264 by 200mm (10.5 by 7.75 inches).

Notes
A striking map of Sri Lanka attributed to Antonio Lafreri.

The map is typical of the Lafreri School with Venetian galleys on the stippled sea, cities and towns represented as bird’s-eye views, and hills and trees populating the interior.

Although the map is anonymous, the work has been attributed, by Destombes, to the Rome publisher Antonio Lafreri, who lists a map of Sri Lanka in his catalogue – item no. 75. La Barroni suggests that the map is a copy of an earlier map, published in Venice, however, there is no substantive evidence for this. The map would later be acquired by Claudio Duchetti, and then by Giacomo Gherardi, who advises it in his catalogue in 1598 (No.175 “isola tapproban”). The plate would then be purchased by Giovanni Orlandi, and finally by Hendrik van Schoel.

Bibliography
Bifolco TAV. 86; cf. Woodward 316-318.

Provenance

Price: £3000

Inventory reference: 14980

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