



A rare 16th century miniature map of Minorca

FERRETTI, Francesco.

Ragionevol' Forma et Vera Postura del' Isola di Minorica.

Ancona: F. Salvioni, 1579-80. 130 x 85mm.

£850

A scarce map of Minorca within a circle with only a few place names and three sea monsters. It was engraved by Michel'Angelo Marrelli for 'Diporti Notturni Dialloghi...', a small military manual that contained 28 maps of islands. The author, Francesco Ferreti (1523-93), was a Knight of the Order of St Stephen, which was founded by Cosimo I de' Medici to help fight the Ottomans and pirates of the Mediterranean and had participated at the great Battle of Lepanto less than a decade earlier. Dedicated to Francesco de' Medici, Cosimo's son and successor as Grand Duke of Tuscany, the manual's maps are of the Mediterranean islands most at risk, with a map of Britain being the only exception.

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