

Basic Detail Report



00019658

Title

Saint Brendan saying mass on the back of a whale

Date

1621

Primary Maker

Wolfgang Kilian (1581 - 1662)

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Mount: 5 mm Overall: 339 x 412 mm, 0.28 kg Display Dimensions: 173 x 277 mm

Name

Print

History

This engraving illustrates the voyage of the Irish monk St Brendan (484 - 577 AD) based on a Latin manuscript written around 900 AD, the *Navigatio Sancti Brandanni*. The 'Nova typis Transacta Navigatio', published in 1621, is mainly about the Benedictine priest Bernard Buil of Montserrat, who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage. Before beginning those adventures the author recounts the story of another saintly St Brendan. The author is given as Honorius Philoponus which is probably a pseudonym for Caspar Plautius to whom this book is dedicated. Caspar Plautius was the abbot of the Benedictine monastery Seitenstetten in Austria. So is recounting voyages of another Benedictine, Buil, and another abbot, Brendan. The illustration accompanying the text are most likely the work of Wolfgang Kilian (1581-1662), an Augsburg printmaker. He is presumed to be the artist for all the images in the book not obviously derived from the *Petits Voyages* and *Grands Voyages* of Theodor de Bry.