



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Graeciae Universae Secundum Hodiernum Situm Neoterica Descriptio

Stock#: 85794
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1579
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 675.00



Description:

Decorative map of Greece and surrounding Islands and contiguous regions, from Ortelius' *Theatrum*, based upon the work of Giacomo Gastaldi.

Abraham Ortelius's map "Graeciae Universae Secundum Hodiernum Situm Neoterica Descriptio" offers an intriguing glance into the cartographic practices of the late sixteenth century. The title translates to "A Modern Description of All of Greece According to its Present State," revealing Ortelius's intention to depict Greece not as an ancient realm of mythology and history, but as a real, tangible place of his contemporary world.

Laid out on an impressive scale, the map is a detailed exploration of the terrain and topography of Greece. The boundaries of this southern European nation are carefully delineated, with its countless islands punctuating the bright azure of the surrounding seas. The mainland, with its peninsulas and contours, is painstakingly represented, capturing the ruggedness of the landscape in precise yet delicate strokes.

Important towns, be it a well-known hub like Athens or Sparta or a less renowned township, is marked distinctly. Rivers, snaking their way through the lands, are represented with wavy lines, while lakes are shown as watery expanses nestled amidst terrain. The mountains rise in soft, rounded lines, providing a sense of the varied elevations that typify Greece's geography. Each forest is depicted with tree-like symbols colored in green, adding a textural depth to the overall representation.

All of these details come together to create a sense of place, a representation of Greece as a nation of cities, natural landscapes, and sea routes.



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The map is embellished by a large sailing ship, frozen mid-voyage in the Gulf of Venice. This artistic feature is a nod to the era's significant maritime exploration and sea trade, tying Greece's contemporary reality back to its historic identity as a seafaring nation.

Detailed Condition: