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[Germany -- Embellished with Animals] Tabula Europae IIII

Stock#: 100690
Map Maker: Ruscelli
Date: 1561 (1597)
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10 x 7 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Tabula Europae IIII, produced in Venice in 1561, offers an intriguing snapshot of Germany, Denmark, and the Baltic region as interpreted through the Ptolemaic worldview. Girolamo Ruscelli's map stands as an artifact of the Renaissance's revitalization of ancient geographical knowledge, presenting these northern territories with the fidelity of Ptolemy's Second Century insights.

This map is not merely a depiction of political boundaries or geographical landscapes; it also brings to life the fauna of the regions it represents. Renderings of bison, the celebrated aurochs (urus), and the alces (likely an elk or moose) animate the territories, adding a layer of natural history to the cartographic delineation. These animals, native to the regions, reveal the biodiversity of Northern Europe during this period and exemplify the cartographer's intent to document the natural world as well as the man-made.

Of particular note is the inclusion of a bird with a curious annotation: "Pennae huius auis noctu emicant." Translated from Latin, this means, "The feathers of this bird shine at night." This intriguing detail introduces an element of the fantastic and unknown into an otherwise scholarly and factual cartographic work.

Tabula Europae IIII is not merely a record of territories, but a fusion of geography, natural history, and cultural understanding from the Renaissance period. Ruscelli's map thus serves as a meaningful testament to the diverse interests and expansive knowledge of the period's scholars, as they sought to reconcile classical knowledge with the evolving understanding of the world.



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Detailed Condition: