



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## (Persia) Quinta Asie Tabula [Fifth Map of Asia]

**Stock#:** 101347  
**Map Maker:** Ptolemy / Reger  
**Date:** 1486  
**Place:** Ulm  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 23.25 x 15 inches including text  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *The First Woodcut Map of Persia.*

Fine woodcut map of Persia, the first such map ever produced, presented here in the second edition, printed by Johann Reger in Ulm in 1486.

The first and second printings can be differentiated by the inclusion or not of title text at the top of the map and by the text setting on the back of the map.

#### Classical Regions Named and Depicted

To the modern viewer, this map covers areas most readily associated with modern-day Iran and its neighbors. In Ptolemy's time, the area home to several regions, namely Susiana, Assiria, Media, Persidis, Parthia, Hircania, Carmania Deserta, and parts of Carmania. These represent a collection of ancient regions and civilizations that played pivotal roles in the history and development of the Near East and wider ancient world. Susiana, corresponding to parts of modern-day Iran and Iraq, was known for its capital, Susa (shown in the north of the region), a major city in the ancient world. Assiria, or Assyria, was a powerful empire known for its military prowess and advancements in governance, influencing regions far beyond its borders. Media, located in what is now northwestern Iran, was notable for its role in the fall of Assyria and the establishment of the Median Empire. Persidis, or Persia, evolved into the Achaemenid Empire, which at its height was one of the largest empires in history, known for its administration system and road networks. Parthia, in northeastern Iran, was renowned for its horse archers and successfully challenged the Roman Empire for dominance in the East. Hircania, along the southern shores of the Caspian Sea, was known for its dense forests and as a frontier of various empires. Carmania Deserta and the inhabited parts of Carmania (modern-day Kerman) were important for their strategic location in Iran,



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serving as a crossroads between the East and West. Collectively, these regions contributed significantly to cultural exchanges, military campaigns, and the spread of ideas, shaping the historical trajectory of the ancient Near East and the broader world.

**Detailed Condition:**

Woodcut on 15th-century laid paper. Original hand-color, retouched and augmented. Right and left margins extended with expert reinstatement of some printed image.