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Tabula Moderna Italie

Stock#: 101888
Map Maker: Ptolemy / Reger
Date: 1486
Place: Ulm
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 14.25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Modern Map of Italy

Stunning example of this important early map of Italy, which first appeared in the 1482 edition of the famed Ulm Ptolemy *Geographia*.

Drawn from the work of Dominus Nicolaus Germanus, a Benedictine monk from Saxony, this map is perhaps the single most important modern map of Italy published in the 15th Century and certainly the most beautiful.

Along with the map of Francesco Berlingheri also published in 1482 in Florence entitled *Novella Italia*, the present map holds the distinction of being the first modern map of Italy. It is also the first map to appear to be in its original color and the first published North of the Alps. This is one of the 5 modern maps (Italy, Spain, Palestine, France and Scandinavia) that had been added to the traditional set of 27 Ptolemy maps which appeared in the Ulm edition.

The present map differs significantly from Berlingheri's map, most notably in the shape of Corsica and northern Sardinia and the different orientation of the two maps, which allows a "longer" treatment of the Italian peninsula, significantly less of the Adriatic Sea. A closer inspection of the two maps reveals that they are, remarkably, drawn from entirely different courses.

Sources

The Ulm Ptolemy map of 1482-86 derives from a map found in codex 2586 (a manuscript copy of Ptolemy's *Geographia*), an example of Ptolemy's *Geographia* drawn by Dominus Nicolaus Germanus



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for Pope Paul II.

Comparing the modern map of Italy to Ptolemy's Sexta Europae Tabula, it quickly becomes apparent that the map is significantly improved in Northern Italy (most notably Italy's famous Alpine Lakes) and far more elaborate treatment of the Po River and its tributaries. The concept of a single Apennine mountain range has also evolved into a far more complex set of mountains and riverine watersheds.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color, retouched and augmented.