



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[North Africa, Sicily, Sardinia] Secunda Affrice Tabula

Stock#: 101894
Map Maker: Ptolemy - Reger
Date: 1486
Place: Ulm
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 22 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Map of The Region Printed North of the Alps and First in Publisher's Color

Fine example of the striking 15th Century map of the southern Mediterranean and North Africa, from the famous Ulm Ptolemy, first published in 1482.

The Coast of Africa includes the modern regions of Algeria, Libya and Tunisia, extending north to include the islands of Sicily, Malta and Sardinia. A massive mountain range demarcates the limits of the knowledge of Ptolemy's Northern Africa, with little knowledge of the Sub-Saharan regions.

This map, which covers parts of modern-day Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Malta, Sicily, and Sardinia, was based on the cartography of the 2nd-century polymath Claudius Ptolemaeus. Ptolemy's detailed mapping of the ancient world was lost until the 13th century when it was rediscovered and redrawn (only a set of coordinates remained) by Byzantine Greek monk Maximus Planudes. Planudes's hand-drawn atlas formed the basis for a Ptolemy atlas manuscript tradition that continued until the advent of commercial printing in the middle of the 15th century.

In 1477 the first engraved Ptolemaic atlas appeared in Bologna, Italy. Three years later, the first Ulm edition was published, a woodblock printed work which included publisher's color for the first time.

The European Exploration of Africa the end of the 15th Century

Between 1480 and 1500, the exploration of Africa was predominantly driven by Portuguese navigators, building on the vision of Prince Henry the Navigator. In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias achieved a significant



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breakthrough by sailing around the southernmost tip of Africa, unveiling the potential for a maritime route to Asia. This exploration was furthered by Vasco da Gama, who between 1497 and 1499 successfully navigated around the Cape of Good Hope to India, inaugurating a new era of global maritime trade and European engagement with the African continent. These expeditions set the stage for the Portuguese establishment of coastal trade posts and initiated critical, albeit complex, interactions with African societies, laying a foundation for subsequent European global exploration and colonization endeavors.

Detailed Condition: