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[Armenia, Caucasus and Georgia] *Tabula Asiae III*

Stock#: 103837
Map Maker: Ruscelli
Date: 1598
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition:
Size: 10 x 7.5 inches
Price: \$ 225.00



Description:

This 1561 map, *Tabula Asiae III*, made by Girolamo Ruscelli and published in Venice, presents a Ptolemaic perspective of the region wedged between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, focusing predominantly on Armenia. This map elucidates the geographical understanding of the era, showcasing regions like Assyriae Pars, Armenia Maior, Mediae Pars, Hyrcani sive Caspii Maris. Pars., Portae Albaniae, and Armeniae Minoris Pars. Notably, the map references Albania in the Caucasus rather than in the Balkans.

The 16th century marked a significant period in cartography when classical works of ancient scholars like Ptolemy saw a revival. Girolamo Ruscelli, an Italian cartographer and editor, was instrumental in this Renaissance period, translating and augmenting Ptolemy's geographical treatises. Ruscelli's adoption of Ptolemy's geographical systems in "*Tabula Asiae III*" signifies the endurance of classical knowledge and its influence on the Renaissance mind.

An interesting feature of this map is its depiction of Armenia, a historical region that often served as a crossroads between the major empires of the time, including the Romans, Persians, Byzantines, Arabs, and Ottomans. In the context of Ruscelli's time, the 16th century, the area was witnessing the growing influence of the Ottoman and Safavid empires. The map, therefore, provides a cartographical snapshot of this geostrategically important region during a period of intense imperial competition.

In summary, "*Tabula Asiae III*" is an enlightening document that captures the fusion of ancient and Renaissance geographical understanding. Its depiction of Armenia and surrounding territories, during a pivotal historical period, provides a fascinating look at the region's shifting boundaries and evolving identities.



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Detailed Condition: