



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

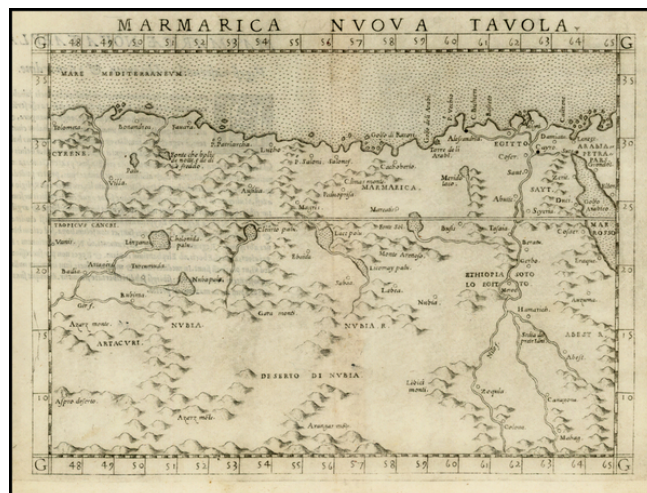
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Marmarica Nuova Tavola

Stock#: 25427
Map Maker: Ruscelli
Date: 1561
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 10 x 7 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine early map of part of North Africa, centered on the Nubia Desert and showing Egypt, the Nile, etc.

From Ruscelli's edition of Ptolemy, *Ptolemeo. La Geografia...*, first published in Venice in 1561.

The region of North Africa shown, was loosely under the control of the Ottoman Empire (excluding Morocco). In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Ottoman Empire entered a period of expansion. The Empire prospered under a line of committed and effective Sultans. The map was made during the reign of Suleiman The Magnificent, most associated with the Golden Age and maximum expansion of the Ottoman Empire. By 1561, the Ottoman Empire was a dominant force in European Politics, and in the Mediterranean.

The presence of the Spanish in the Eastern Mediterranean concerned Suleiman, who saw it as an early indication of Charles V's intention to rival Ottoman dominance in the region. Recognizing the need to reassert naval preeminence in the Mediterranean, Suleiman appointed an exceptional naval commander known to Europeans as Barbarossa. Once appointed, Barbarossa was charged with rebuilding the Ottoman fleet, to such an extent that the Ottoman navy equaled in number those of all other Mediterranean countries put together.

In 1538, the Spanish fleet was defeated by Barbarossa at the Battle of Preveza, securing the eastern Mediterranean for the Turks for 33 years. East of Morocco, huge Muslim territories of North Africa up to the west of Algeria, were annexed. The Barbary States of Tripolitania, Tunisia, and Algeria, became autonomous provinces of the Empire. These states served as the leading edge of Suleiman's conflict with



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Charles V, whose attempt to drive out the Turks failed in 1541. The piracy carried on thereafter, by the Barbary pirates of North Africa, and can be seen in the context of the wars against Spain; Ottoman expansion was associated with naval dominance for a short period in the Mediterranean. The Ottoman Empire would later absorb the east African Adal Sultanate into its domain, which furthered Ottoman rule in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

Detailed Condition: