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(Macrobius World Map) (Macrobii Ambrosii Aurellii Theodosii, Viri consularis & illustris ... M D L X X)

Stock#: 55139
Map Maker: Macrobius
Date: 1570
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 4.3 x 6.3 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An important Early World Map

Title page, 567 pp. (map at p. 144), and index. Hardbound in vellum with manuscript titling and date on spine.

Macrobius's work is a commentary on Cicero's Dream of Scipio. It includes an important woodcut map of the world illustrating Cicero's interesting theories. This diagrammatic map shows two distinct regions of the earth. The inhabited Afro-Eurasian continent was balanced by an unknown, and relatively equal, landmass (Temperata Antipodunobis Incognita) on the other side of an impassable torrid zone (Perusta) and a great boiling sea (Alveus Oceani). This notion of antipodean balance and landmass equivalence that continued to attract Renaissance minds to the otherwise outmoded geographical ideas of Macrobius. Distinguished cartographers like Mercator and Ortelius would later incorporate Macrobius' model into an immense southern continent (Australis Incongnita) to balance the known lands of the world, and the division of the world into climactic zones is still in use today.

Macrobius was a 5th century Roman neoplatonic philosopher. His commentary on Cicero's Somnium Sciponis was of great influence in the Middle Ages and gained popularity with the advent of printing.



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First published in Brescia in 1483, numerous editions appeared throughout the 16th century. His commentary includes several chapters dealing with his own conception of the world and the universe. It also contains references to many facets of the scientific knowledge of his time, including references to physics, astronomy, and mathematics.

Detailed Condition:

Text has occasional light toning, but the small map is clean and bright. The binding is a bit loose with a small tear to the spine at top. The covers are lightly soiled and stained.