



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Nova Universae Graeciae adiacentiumque terrarum Descriptio, Auctore Georgia Acacio Enenckel, L Barone Hoheneccio

Stock#: 75590
Map Maker: Enenckel
Date: 1596
Place: Vienna?
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 21.5 x 11 inches
Price: \$ 1,800.00



Description:

A Rare 16th Century Synthesis of Ancient and Renaissance Greek Cartography

Finely engraved and extremely rare "New Description of All Greece and the Adjoining Lands," by George Achatz von Enenckel.

The map extends from Sicily, Malta, and Southern Italy, to Crete and the western part of Asia Minor, with Greece being divided into various sub-regions.

To create the map, Enenckel undertook a comprehensive study of available sources, requiring a deep dive into both historical and contemporary sources. Enenckel used writings from ancient scholars like Thucydides, Herodotus, Xenophon, and Diodorus to add historical context and accuracy to his map. These sources offered him a detailed understanding of ancient Greece's geography and its changing landscape over centuries.

However, Enenckel was also concerned by the limitations of some previous geographical works, most notably those of Claudius Ptolemy, the famed Alexandrian polymath and geographer. Enenckel was concerned by Ptolemy's limited number of cities and other observations and his inconsistencies with other historians and geographers. Despite these criticisms, Enenckel didn't disregard Ptolemy's works entirely, acknowledging their importance as a base of ancient geographical knowledge.

Moreover, he also drew upon the works of Strabo, an ancient Greek geographer, and other contemporary geographers. He found the descriptions provided by these recent scholars more consistent with the ancient landmarks and structures he was familiar with. This mix of ancient texts and modern geography allowed Enenckel to create a well-rounded representation of the region.



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Enenckel's map is the result of careful cross-referencing of multiple sources, offering a balanced view of the geographical understanding of his time. His main goal was to create a tool for studying history and geography, rather than producing a definitive map of the area. The map thus stands as a significant achievement in 16th-century cartography, demonstrating a thoughtful combination of historical understanding and geographical representation.

The Latin text transcribes and translates as follows:

Terrarum omnium, quas immenso amplexu vtring, finit Oceanus, vetustissimam penè nobilissimam, vel fama rerum gestarum, vel commendatione humanitatis doctrinarumq, GRACIAM, ad Thucydidis primo, tum Herodoti quoq, Xenophontis, Diodori, aliorumq, scriptorum lectionem illustrandam iuvandam, descrip: turus: cum neq, ipse eas regiones oculis perlustrarem, neq, altum qui per se comperta fingula edissereret habere potuissem: Geographis simul recentibus veteribusq, simul, historicis praeis, et utring, derivatis con, jecturis, auctoribus standum judicavi. Ptolemæum vero, cujus hodie in manibus est descriptio vetus, haudquaquam in æquo cæteris auctorem habui: non solum quod vix dimidiam oppidorum, que apud scriptores leguntur, partem supplevit, sed et quod ab alijs tam Geographis quam Historicis perperè (quod multis exemplis notari potest) discrepat. Ad hæc aliquot atatibus Thucydidem secutus, Græcia jam multis in partibus mutatam faciem dissimilem, antiquiori illi et florenti regioni descriptionem, ac ideò haud satis aptam id temporis scriptorum lectioni, præbet. Ego proinde cum novam Thucydi dis emitterem conversionem, præter Annotationes in eum auctorem perpetuas, Chronologiam et Chorographiam lumina duo historiarum, adijcere tentavi. Cæterum ratus, ut alias Mathematicæ partes, sic istam hodie cultam magis magisq, certam haberi, nec nostros Geographos tantum ab Ptolemæo discessuros fuisse, ni certa experientia eos advertere coegisset: recentiorum descriptiones, quas magis praeiorum monumentis congruere animadverti, sequi tutius judicavi; eo adhibito modo, ut alios simul veterum Geographos, (Strabonem in primis) Historicos item, et eos maxime quorum causa opus susceperam accurate observarem, nec à majoris partis, aut eorum certe quibus dignius est credi, confensu dechnare.. ut si nihil aliud, hoc certe afecutus fuerim, ut minus mea ab fingulis diffentiant, quam ipsi inter se principes hujus discipline dissidere videntur, Enimverò historicorum, quos commemoravi, lectioni apta. hæc congruentiaq, quemlibet inventurum spero que meo et aliorum quorundam desiderio utcumq interim satisfaciant: dum alius, me et industria usu har in parte præcellens vel meo excitatus conatu, meliora (quod opto) edat. Vale.

Translation:



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Of all the lands that the immense, enclosing Ocean bounds, I plan to describe Greece, the most ancient and noble of all, whether in the fame of its deeds or in the commendation of its humanities and teachings, to assist and illustrate the readings of Thucydides first, then also Herodotus, Xenophon, Diodorus, and other writers. Since I have not surveyed these regions with my own eyes, nor could I have someone who reported each thing as known through themselves, I decided to rely on both recent and ancient geographers, together with both ancient historians and those who have made inferences. But Ptolemy, whose old description is in our hands today, I did not consider to be an equal author to the others, not only because he provides scarcely half of the towns that are read in the writings, but also because he often disagrees with both geographers and historians (which can be noted with many examples).

In addition, following Thucydides several ages later, Greece has already changed its face in many parts, and his description is dissimilar to that older and flourishing region, and therefore is not quite suitable for the reading of the writers of that time. Therefore, when I was sending out my new translation of Thucydides, besides the perpetual Annotations on this author, I tried to add Chronology and Chorography, two lights of history. Moreover, thinking that, as with other parts of mathematics, geography today is held to be more and more certain, and our geographers would not have deviated so much from Ptolemy unless certain experience had forced them to oppose him, I judged it safer to follow the descriptions of the more recent authors, which I noticed agree more with the monuments of the ancients, using the method to observe carefully both other ancient geographers, (Strabo in particular), historians too, and especially those for whose sake I had undertaken the work, and not to deviate from the consensus of the majority, or certainly those who are more credible.

So that if I have achieved nothing else, I have certainly achieved this: my descriptions disagree less with each other than the main experts of this discipline seem to disagree among themselves. Indeed, I hope that anyone will find this suitable and consistent for reading the historians, which I mentioned, that satisfy for now both my desire and the desire of some others, until another person, either surpassing me in industry and experience in this field or aroused by my attempt, will produce better (which I wish). Farewell.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare. This is the second example we have seen in over 30 years.



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Detailed Condition: