



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Palestina Moderna et Terra Sancta

Stock#: 81842
Map Maker: Berlinghieri / Sanuto / Vesconte
Date: 1482
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size:
Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the Earliest Obtainable Printed Maps of Israel.

A handsome example of the Francesco Berlinghieri map of the Holy Land, published in Florence between 1480 and 1482.

The map is extremely rare on the market and therefore has perhaps not had the level of recent analysis due to it. This map's fundamental claim to fame is that it is one of the first to relay the cartography of Marino Sanuto's *Liber secretorum fidelium Crucis*, from circa 1320. From the beginning of the 1480s onward, maps based on that Sanuto-Vesconte cartography became important additions to the Ptolemy atlases that dominated the early history of printed cartography, and as such they defined the earliest history of printed maps of what is now Israel.

Kenneth Nebenzahl, author of the groundbreaking cartobibliography *Map of the Holy Land*, includes the following essay on the Sanuto-Vesconte map of the Holy Land:

This "modern" map, copied directly from Sanuto and Vesconte by Donnus Nicholaus Germanus, is crucial for the development of Holy Land cartography during the early history of printing. It represents the second fundamental style, after Ptolemy's Asia Part IV, which determined the format for mapmakers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. That the map was composed by Sanuto and Vesconte was no longer important; association with the atlases of Ptolemy assured its authority.

Nicholaus's copy is nearly identical to the 1320 original. Rivers, lakes, and mountains show the same basic contours, and the Mediterranean coast still has its characteristic bays and inlets. The boundaries of the Twelve Tribes are similar. A glance at the cities reveals a few discrepancies, but Sanuto-Vesconte's horizontal format and numerical grid are retained.



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Nicholaus also made some improvements on Sanuto. Lines of latitude in the margin indicate that the orientation of Sanuto's map is actually to the southeast, not directly east; Nicholaus kept the format but indicated true north. The river Kishon no longer connects the Sea of Galilee with the Mediterranean, as it did according to Burchard of Mt. Sion's long-influential aberration. Some cities have been added, mostly from Ptolemy's Asia Part IV, and more information is conveyed in numerous inscriptions.

Nicholaus produced three manuscript versions of a Ptolemaic atlas between 1466 and 1474. These formed the basis for some of the first printed atlases, one at Rome in 1478, and two at Ulm in 1482 and 1486. The printed atlases contained Sanuto and Vesconte's map of Palestine as a modern map, linking them with the Ptolemaic canon.

Ptolemaic manuscripts had been supplemented by modern delineations as early as 1428, when a copyist inserted a map of the north by Claudius Clavus. Hugo de Comminellis produced a Ptolemy atlas with a section of modern maps in November 1469. Nicholaus, in his third revision of Ptolemy, quickly adopted Comminellis's original idea, adding Sanuto's map of the Holy Land for the first time.

The Sanuto-Vesconte map had not been improved substantially for over 150 years, and it was destined to provide the basic image of the Holy Land until the eighteenth century. It proved itself an appropriate addition to Ptolemy's classical geography.

The present map of the Holy Land is one of four "modern" (i.e., non-Ptolemaic) maps included in 1482 Florence *Geographia*. The others are of Italy, Spain, and France.

This map and the 1482 Ulm version are both based on the Vesconte-Sanuto and were published at approximately the same time, however their cartography differs, indicating that they were based on different manuscript models, as is generally accepted. The Berlinghieri makes notable changes to the mountains at the top of the map and to the Mediterranean coastline.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare on the market; we were unable to trace any examples for sale in OldMaps.com and RBH.

This is the first time we have had the map.

Detailed Condition:

Etching and engraving on laid paper. Trimmed just inside the platemark at the left and right edges. Very



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small area of marginal leafcasting in the left and right margins, not affecting the printed image. Leafcast touch-up of few binding marks at the centerfold.