



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

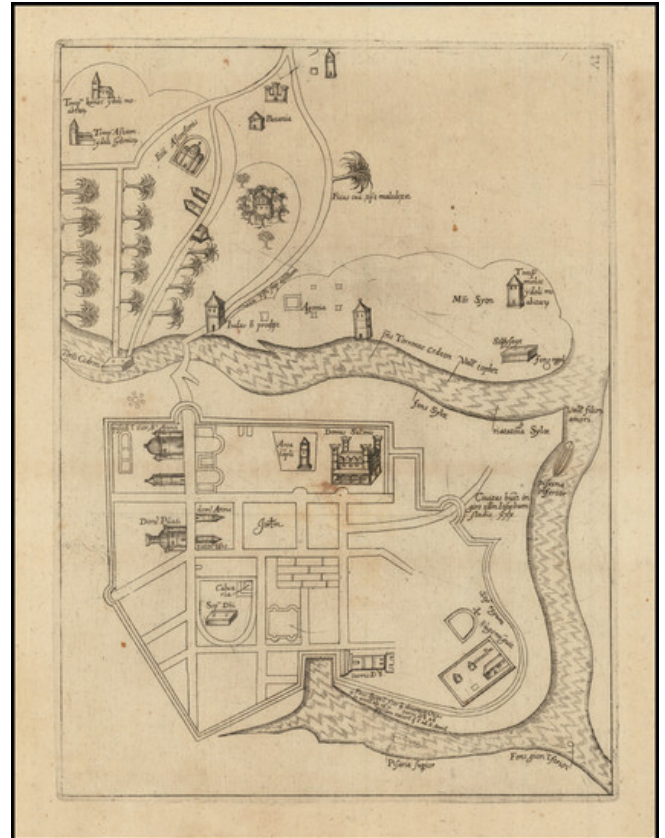
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[Jerusalem]

Stock#: 88547
Map Maker: Bongars / Vesconte
Date: 1611
Place: Hanover
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 7.5 x 10 inches
Price: On Hold



Description:

The earliest printing of Pietro Vesconte's Important 14th-Century Map of Jerusalem.

The rare 1611 Johann Bongars edition of the Vesconte chart of Jerusalem, one of the finest Medieval town plans of the city.

Based on a manuscript plan by Vesconte, the map shows the Holy City during biblical times. It labels the homes (domus) of King Solomon, Pilate, and St. Anne, and shows the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (sepulchrum domini). The map shows the Kidron as a vast river encircling Jerusalem. Roads lead into and out of the city, and the city's fortifications are shown.

Bongars and the Printing of Vesconte's Map

Pietro Vesconte was a Genoese cartographer and one of the earliest creators of portolan charts. He



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operated primarily out of Venice, and greatly influenced Italian and Catalan mapmaking throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. He is widely regarded as having been the first professional mapmaker to habitually sign and date his works. Vesconte's portolan of the Eastern Mediterranean (1311), is the oldest known signed and dated map.

Vesconte created a groundbreaking 'Portulano', or World Map, which contained many geographically progressive elements. He was also the first mapmaker to accurately map the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and (relatively) the Holy Land and his depiction of Great Britain was a marked improvement over his predecessors. At least four of his multi-chart atlases survive, dating from 1313 to 1321.

Johann Bongars created this finely executed version of the Vesconte map as part of the greater intellectual movement that flourished in Europe, and in Germany in particular, roughly from 1450 to 1650, during which scholars, heavily influenced by the enlightened ethic of Humanism, sought to acquire, preserve and learn from the most progressive elements of Classical and Medieval thought. These scholars sought to go "ad fontes", or 'to the original source' of the knowledge, or as close to it as possible.

In 1611, Bongars printed his *Gesta Dei Per Francosi*, which included a collection of maps by Vesconte as well as Marino Sanudo's text on the Crusades. Sanudo was a Venetian statesman and geographer best known for his lifelong attempts to revive the crusading spirit and movement. He wrote his great work, the *Secreta* or *Liber Secretorum Fidelium Crucis*, also called *Historia Hierosolymitana*, *Liber de expeditione Terrae Sanctae*, and *Opus Terrae Sanctae*.

Detailed Condition: