



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Italy & Corsica) Tabula VI Europae

Stock#: 93879
Map Maker: Fries
Date: 1525
Place: Strasbourg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 17 x 11 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A Rare Early Map of Italy

Nice example of the 1525 edition of Lorenz Fries map of Italy and Corsica, one of the earliest obtainable maps of Italy.

First published in Strasbourg by Johannes Gruninger in 1522, Fries map is based upon Waldseemuller's map of 1513.

Frenta

The map includes a reference to Frenta. The Frentani were an Italic tribe who inhabited the eastern part of the Samnium region, in what is now modern-day southern Abruzzo and northern Apulia. This geographical location is key to understanding their cultural, political, and social development. Their territory was bordered by the Adriatic Sea to the east, the Apennines to the west, the Sangro river to the north, and the Fortore river to the south. This geographical positioning provided the Frentani with ample opportunities for trade, agriculture, and fishing.

Archaeological evidence, including coins, inscriptions, and pottery, provides insights into the Frentani's material culture. They appear to have had significant contact with the neighboring Samnites and were influenced by their artistic and architectural styles. Despite this cultural connection, the Frentani maintained a distinct political identity, often considered independent from the Samnites in historical sources.

In terms of their political organization, the Frentani, like many other Italic tribes, were made up of several



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city-states or "civitates." These included Larinum (Larino), Cliternia (Caldari), and Anxanum (Lanciano), among others. Each of these cities had its own local administration, but they likely cooperated in matters of defense and foreign policy.

The Frentani first appear in recorded history during the Samnite Wars (343–290 BC) when they allied themselves with the Romans against their Samnite neighbors. However, their loyalty to Rome was not consistent; they later sided with Hannibal during the Second Punic War (218–201 BC). Despite these shifts in alliances, after the Roman victory, they were incorporated into the Roman state with relative autonomy.

The legacy of the Frentani lives on in the modern-day regions of Abruzzo and Apulia, visible in the numerous archaeological sites scattered across the Italian countryside. These ancient people, with their strategic alliances and shifting loyalties, represent the dynamic and complex cultural interplay that characterized ancient Italy.

Lorenz Fries

Lorenz (Laurent) Fries was born in Alsace in about 1490. He studied medicine, apparently spending time at the universities of Pavia, Piacenza, Montpellier and Vienna. After completing his education, Fries worked as a physician in several places, before settling in Strassburg, in about 1519. While in Strassburg, Fries met the Strasbourg printer and publisher Johann Grüninger, an associate of the St. Die group of scholars formed by, among others, Walter Lud, Martin Ringmann and Martin Waldseemüller.

From 1520 to 1525, Fries worked with Grüninger as a cartographic editor, exploiting the corpus of material that Waldseemüller had created. Fries' first venture into mapmaking was in 1520, when he executed a reduction of Martin Waldseemüller's wall-map of the World, published in 1507. While it would appear that Fries was the editor of the map, credit is actually given in the title to Peter Apian. The map, *Tipus Orbis Universalis Iuxta Ptolomei Cosmographi Traditionem Et Americi Vesputii Aliorque Lustrationes A Petro Apiano Leysnico Elucubrat. An.o Dni MDXX*, and was issued in Caius Julius Solinus' *Enarrationes*, edited by Camers, and published in Vienna in 1520.

Fries' next project was a new edition of the *Geographia* of Claudius Ptolemy, which was published by Johann Koberger in 1522. Fries originally intended for the maps included in this work to be part of a new *Chronica Mundi* being written by Martin Waldseemüller, whose death circa 1520 caused the project to be shelved. Instead, Fries used his woodcut maps to publish a smaller sized edition of Waldseemüller's *Geographia*. Fries evidently edited the original Waldseemüller maps, in most cases simply producing a reduction of the equivalent map from Waldseemüller's 1513 edition of the *Geographie Opus Novissima*, printed by Johann Schott. Fries evidently edited the maps, in most cases simply producing a reduction of the equivalent map from Waldseemüller's 1513 edition of the *Geographie Opus Novissima*, printed by



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Johann Schott. Fries also prepare three new maps for the *Geographie*: maps of South-East Asia and the East Indies, China and the World, but the geography of these derives from Waldseemüller's world map of 1507.

The 1522 edition of Fries work is very rare, suggesting that the work was not commercially successful. In 1525, an improved edition was issued, with a re-edit of the text by Wilibald Pirckheimer, from the notes of Johannes Regiomontanus. After Grüninger's death in 1531, the business was continued by his son Christoph, who seems to have sold the materials for the Ptolemy to two Lyon publishers, the brothers Melchior and Gaspar Trechsel, who published a joint edition in 1535, before Gaspar Trechsel published an edition in his own right in 1541.

Detailed Condition: