



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Asia Minor / Türkiye] [Prima Asie Tabula]

Stock#: 94179
Map Maker: Ptolemy / Holle
Date: 1482
Place: Ulm
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21.5 x 15.2 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Map of Asia Minor Published North of the Alps

Striking example of Greco-Roman geographer and astronomer Claudius Ptolemy's mapping of Asia Minor, drawn from his monumental *Geographia*, his 2nd Century A.D. treatise which would become the single most important early Renaissance view of the classical world and influence Renaissance cartography for over two centuries.

The first Asian region (Prima Tabula) covered by Ptolemy Asia Minor, a region corresponding to modern-day Turkey. Ptolemy's depiction of this area, captured in the map *Prima Asiae Tabula*, underwent a fascinating evolution, of one of the high points was its appearance in the 1482 Ulm edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*.

Ptolemy's original work on Asia Minor was based on earlier sources, most of which are lost today. His maps, including *Prima Asiae Tabula*, were likely not visually represented in his original manuscript but were instead provided as detailed instructions allowing cartographers to recreate the geographical layout. Ptolemy's Asia Minor was divided into precise coordinate points using a grid system, based on longitudinal and latitudinal lines.

Nicolaus Germanus, a Benedictine monk of the 15th century, played a significant role in reviving Ptolemy's work. His manuscript editions of *Geographia* included one of the earliest known examples of maps created following Ptolemy's instructions, bringing a visual component to Ptolemy's geographic descriptions. In his depiction of Asia Minor, Germanus applied Ptolemy's coordinates to construct a relatively accurate layout of the region, emphasizing the peninsular shape of Asia Minor and the prominence of the Aegean and



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Black Seas.

The 1482 Ulm edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia* is considered to be one of the visual high points of the Ptolemaic mapping tradition. This edition, printed by Lienhart Holle, was the first edition of *Geographia* to be printed north of the Alps, and the first to incorporate woodcut maps, a technique that allowed for more detailed and mass-produced images. The Ulm edition's depiction of Asia Minor was notably more detailed and aesthetically refined, while still fundamentally adhering to Ptolemy's original geographic model. Moreover, this was the first edition to regularly include hand coloring, with the publisher's lavish use of ultramarine Lapis Lazuli for the seas and oceans of the world, a blue pigment more expensive than gold, ultimately bankrupting the publication project. The 1486 edition, issued by Johann Reger, would quickly abandon ultramarine, in favor of a more financially viable taupe brown wash for coloring the the seas.

The 1482 Ulm Ptolemy map of Asia Minor reveals a region that is instantly recognizable, with the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean to the south, and the Aegean Sea to the west. Significant cities, such as Byzantium (Istanbul), are also marked, reflecting their importance during Ptolemy's time.

Rarity

The 1482 Ptolemy maps are rare on the market.

This is the first time we have offered *Asie Prima Tabula*.

Detailed Condition:

Old color, recently retouched. Restoration in the blank margins, including reinstatement of several letters on right side of image.