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[The Monarchy of Alexander the Great]

Stock#: 98737
Map Maker: Schedel
Date: 1493
Place: Nuremberg
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 10 x 14 inches
Price: \$ 245.00



Description:

Hellenic Ideals and the Conquests of Alexander

An intriguing fuse of Christian doctrine and Classical history, this leaf shows Alexander the Great and two of his successor kings, Antigonus and Seleucus. Alexander the Great (*Alexander magnus*) is depicted in a Medieval European manner, sporting an older, bearded visage, plate armor, and a shield with a coat of arms. This anachronistic Alexander holds a vine that connects to Antigonus and Seleucus, two of his generals who won a kingdom after the death of Alexander. Antigonus and Seleucus are depicted resting atop flowers, holding the vine connected to Alexander to symbolize they "descended" from Alexander, at least in a sense. Both men are dressed in the fashion of Medieval monarchs and hold scepters.

Two more vines continue into the next page, likely indicating Alexander's other main successors Ptolemy



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in Egypt and Cassander in Greece. This section appears to be a history of the Kingdom of Syria so the inclusion of Alexander and his successors would indeed make sense. The above portraits may be the religious leaders of Syria/the pontificate of Judea as the *Nuremberg Chronicle* focused on a blended biblical and historical narrative.

This leaf was produced for the 1493 Latin version of Schedel's monumental *Nuremberg Chronicle*. Schedel desired to write a history of the Western world based on the Bible which is showcased in this engraving.

Detailed Condition:

One sheet, printed verso-recto. Long repaired tear on the right hand side. Minor toning and wear as pictured, largely unaffected main image.