



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

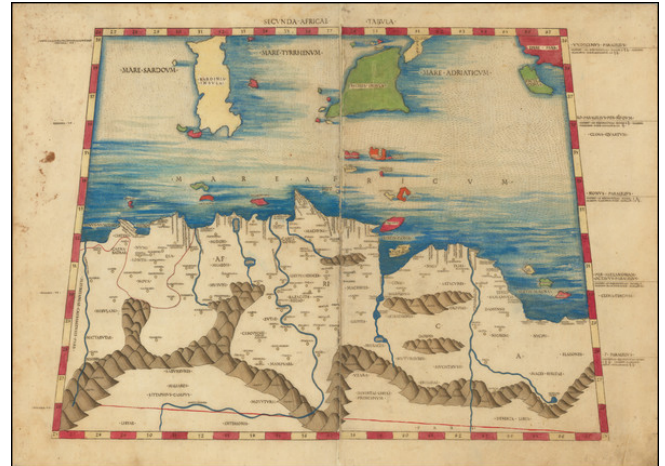
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Secunda Africa Tabula [North Africa, Malta, Sicily, and Sardinia]

Stock#: 72485
Map Maker: Ptolemy / Venetus de Vitalibus
Date: 1478 (circa 1507)
Place: Rome
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 2,800.00



Description:

Rare etched and engraved map of the southern Mediterranean and North Africa, from the famous Rome Ptolemy, first published in 1478.

This map, which covers parts of modern-day Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Malta, Sicily, and Sardinia, was based on the cartography of the 2nd-century polymath Claudius Ptolemaeus. Ptolemy's detailed mapping of the ancient world was lost until the 13th century when it was rediscovered and redrawn (only a set of coordinates remained) by Byzantine Greek monk Maximus Planudes. Planudes's hand-drawn atlas formed the basis for a Ptolemy atlas manuscript tradition that continued until the advent of commercial printing in the middle of the 15th century. In 1477 the first engraved Ptolemaic atlas appeared in Bologna, Italy. A year later the present map was engraved for an atlas published in Rome.

Because of the map's Ptolemaic sources, the placenames are reflective of ancient and Medieval history. "Melita" is named on the Island of Malta, with "Iunonis Templum" noted in the neighboring island to the east.

The Rome Ptolemy corrected some of the problems with the 1477 Bologna Ptolemy. Its key improvements included clearer captioning, more accurate projections, and more legible overall design and engraving.

Rarity and Dating

Historically, it was difficult (if not impossible) to date separate maps from editions of the 1478/1490/1507-08 Rome Ptolemy. In 2017, R.H.J. Peerlings, F. Laurentius, and J. van den Bovenkamp studied the watermarks in the different editions of the atlas to establish a chronology of watermarks that



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could be used to date separate maps.

The present map has a crossbow-in-circle watermark. These kinds of watermarks appeared in both the 1478 and 1507-08, though this one is apparently associated with the later edition.

Maps from all editions of the atlas are rare, though the 1478-datable maps appear to be up to an order of magnitude rarer than the later editions.

Detailed Condition:

Backed on thin paper. Minor thumb-soiling and old ink spots in the margins. Minor restoration along the centerfold including some manuscript fascimile.