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(Ptolemy Atlas) Claudii Ptolemaei Alexandrini Geographiae Libri Octo Graeco-Latini...

Stock#: 90943
Map Maker: Hondius / Mercator / Claesz
Date: 1605
Place: Amsterdam & Frankfurt
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10.5 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

"This is the first edition of Ptolemy's Geographia with the Greek text next [to] the Latin text... The Ptolemy edition of 1605 is the first work printed in Greek in Amsterdam, and is a typographic masterpiece." - Koeman Me3

This is the third edition of Gerard Mercator's rendition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*, following the editions of 1578 and 1584. This is the first posthumous edition, after the mantle of publication had been taken up by the Amsterdam map-publishing powerhouses of Jodocus Hondius and Cornelis Claesz. As mentioned in Koeman (Me3), this edition is the first to publish Latin translations of the text side-by-side with the original Greek (a translation of Ptolemy into Latin had first been accomplished by Jacopo Angeli in 1410). This is also the first work printed in Greek in Amsterdam, a very significant typographic accomplishment in its own right.

The book includes 28 intricately engraved maps, starting with a map of the ancient world, and proceeding regionally through the old world. The maps are unaltered in this edition, but would subsequently be substantially reworked.

Koeman, Me3:

Title-page resembles that of 1584, but has been entirely re-engraved. This is the first edition of Ptolemy's Geographia with the Greek text next [to] the Latin text... There are three variants of the imprint, all dated 1605:



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- a) Sumptibus Cornelij Nicolai et Iudoci Hondij, Amsterodmimi.*
- b) Sumptibus Cornelij Nicolai et Iudoci Hondij, Amsterodmimi, Francofurti.*
- c) Jodocus Hondius excudit sibi et Cornelio Nicolai, in cujus officina prostant, Francofurti.*

The name of the printer is not given. According to Wijnman, Het Boek, 28, p. 1-48 it was Jan Theunisz, who moved from Leiden to Amsterdam in 1604. The Ptolemy edition of 1605 is the first work printed in Greek in Amsterdam and a typographic masterpiece. Literature: A. de Smet: Gerard Mercator en zijn Westvlaamse voortzetter Jodocus Hondius ... Album Archivaris Jos. de Smet. Brugge, 1964.

It should be noted that in Van der Krogt ("New Koeman") the order of the variants is reversed, so Koeman Variant C becomes Van der Krogt Variant A.

Koeman gives the following collation:

A⁶ - S⁶ Claudii Ptolemaei / Alexandrini, Geographicae / Enarrationis, Text, 215 pp. (pages numbered 1-215)

T⁶ - X⁴ Index Eorum Quae In octo / Libris Ptolemaei Continentur 31 pp. On verso of last page diagram.

a⁶ - c³ In dicem Hunc in / tres classes distinxi, iuxta Text, 30 pp.

Detailed Condition:

Folio. Full 18th-century calf, spine in seven compartments separated by raised bands, lettering piece in the second (PTOLOMÆI GEOGRAPHIÆ), the others with gilt floral designs (Front hinge expertly mended.) 28 engraved maps, all but one double-page (second map with loss to lower right corner of blank margin). Engraved title, 5 leaves, maps, [30] pages (index), 215 (Greek and translation, Books of the Geography), [32] pages (index). Complete.