



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

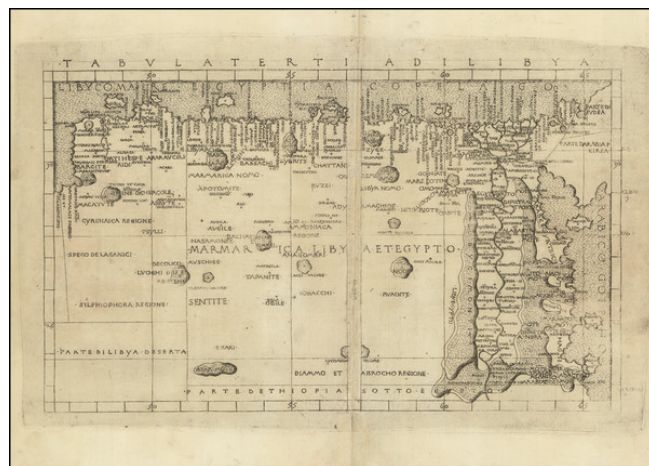
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(Libya and Egypt) Tabula Tertia Di Libya

Stock#: 94856
Map Maker: Berlinghieri
Date: 1482
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 11 inches
Price: \$ 9,500.00



Description:

Nice example of Francesco Berlinghieri's very rare map of Libya and Egypt, from his *Septe Giornate della Geographia di Francesco Berlinghieri* (The Seven Days of Geography), published in Florence in 1482.

The map is primarily concerned with the North African coast between the Gulf of Sidra and Israel. It extends south below the ancient port of Berenice on the Red Sea (here called "Arabico Golpho"), essentially encompassing all of modern-day Egypt and the eastern half of modern-day Libya.

The settlements adjacent to the Nile are of particular interest, as they reflect the knowledge of the Alexandria-based polymath Claudius Ptolemaeus, the second-century author of the geographical gazetteer that was the basis for the present map. As Ptolemy was based in Egypt, one may expect particularly good information of that region from him.

It is interesting to compare Berlinghieri's "Tertia" with that of Conrad Swenheym, which appeared a few years earlier in [the 1478 Rome Ptolemy](#).

The 1478 map is superior in terms of its clarity of design and execution (a frequent compliment given to that edition re especially the 1477 Bologna Ptolemy), but the cartography cannot be called more accurate. The extensive mountain ranges, lakes and rivers, and even forests of eastern Libya and western Egypt stand in unreal contrast to the more realistic sparseness of Berlinghieri. They were clearly working from different manuscript sources, and Berlinghieri's map is much closer to the "Tertia" in Vatopedi 655, the earliest extant manuscript Ptolemy atlas produced after the work's rediscovery by Maximus Planudes in the 13th century.



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While Berlingheri's map is the third printed map of Libya and Egypt (pre-dated by editions of 1477 (Bologna) and 1478 (Rome)), his map is of the highest importance for several reasons. First, the map is based upon the projections of Marinus of Tyre, a second-century Greek geographer, cartographer, and mathematician, who is credited as the founder of mathematical geography, a system which would have been employed by Claudius Ptolemy at the time Ptolemy originally constructed his *Geographia*. Berlinghieri's was the only one of these early Ptolemy atlases to use the original projection.

Berlingheri's map is also unique in that it is the first printed map of the region to utilize a style that is notably different from the Nicholas Germanicus model and to adopt a different means for projecting the printed landmasses represented on the maps. The maps were printed by Niccolò Tedesco, a German printer (employing Marinus of Tyre's equidistant meridians and parallels). The maps also have rectangular borders rather than the trapezoidal borders employed in the earlier Bologna and Rome editions (and also the Ulm edition of 1482-1486).

The maps are also believed by some experts to be the earliest cartographic work of Francesco Rosselli, the most important Florentine mapmaker of the late 15th and early-16th centuries.

An essential map for collectors of early maps of Africa.

Detailed Condition:

Minor expert restoration around the bottom of the centerfold. VG to VG+