



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

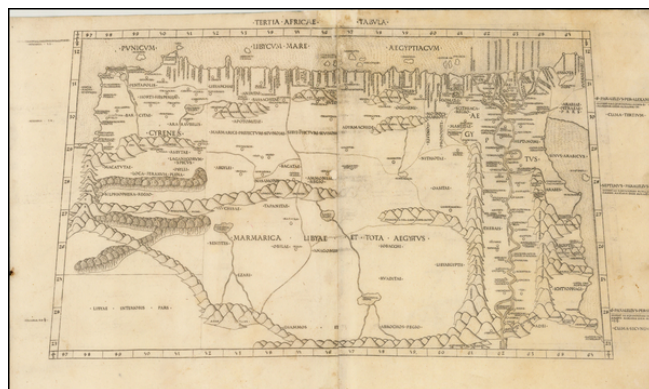
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### Tertia Africae Tabula

**Stock#:** 34077  
**Map Maker:** Ptolemy / Swenheym  
**Date:** 1478  
**Place:** Rome  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 21.5 x 14 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### Description:

Rare early edition of Ptolemy's map of Northeastern Africa, extending from Egypt and the Red Sea (Sinus Arabicus) to Libya,

Conrad Swenheym's finely engraved of Northeastern Africa and Egypt is the earliest obtainable map of the region, preceded only a map published in Bologna in 1477 which is essentially unobtainable for collectors. The map shows the region based upon the writings of the Alexandrian mapmaker Claudius Ptolemy, who flourished in the second Century A.D. and whose geographical text was translated into Latin and later inspired manuscript maps using Ptolemy's table of geographical coordinates. The earliest surviving examples of such manuscript maps date to the beginning of the 14th Century. Ultimately these maps and Ptolemy's text would be compiled to form the most influential treatise on Geography in the 15th Century, concurrently with the advent of the printing press, resulting in its wide spread distribution in Europe, which ironically eclipsed the work of other Greek Geographers of the period, such as Strabo, whose work was probably more accurate than Ptolemy's calculations.

Conrad Swenheym introduced the printing press to Italy at the height of the Renaissance, having been apprenticed to Gutenberg. Initially, under the enthusiastic patronage of Pope Paul II, Swenheym concentrated on publishing texts, but later turned to producing the first illustrated *Cosmographia* in the early 1470s, when enthusiasm was not sustained by the Pope's successor, Sixtus IV.

Despite being beaten out by one year (for the honor of the earliest printed edition of Ptolemy's work) by Taddeo Crivelli, who published his edition in Bologna in 1477, the copper plates produced under Swenheym's close supervision, and finally printed just after his death in 1478, are considered vastly superior. The plates were then purchased by Petrus de Turre in 1490, who published the second edition, in which this map appeared. The only difference in the maps are the watermarks in the paper. A third edition was issued in 1507.



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**Tertia Africae Tabula**

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor abrasions at upper centerfold, just affecting printed image and one spot at center of map.