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Tab. IIII. Africae, in qua Lybia Interior et Exterior Aethiopia Sub Aegypto et Interior . . .

Stock#: 78287
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1584 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18.5 x 12.25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Gerard Mercator's Ptolemaic Map of North Africa

Finely colored example of Mercator's regional map of North Africa, based upon the writings of Claudius Ptolemy, from a later edition of Gerard Mercator's *Tabulae geographicae Cl. Ptolemaei ad mentem autoris restitutae et emendatae per G. Mercatorem*, first published in 1578.

While Mercator is perhaps best known for his modern maps and the map projection which bears his name, one of his life goals was to produce his own version of Ptolemy's *Geographia*. As a second installment of his *Atlas sive Cosmographia . . .*, Mercator published an authentic version of Ptolemy's seminal work, deliberately devoid of the distracting interpretations and misinterpretations by earlier editors intent on improving the Egyptian geographer's seminal work. Mercator's goal was an accurate portrait of Ptolemy's second-century view of the world. To understand the present, the mapmaker believed, one must appreciate the past.

The atlas, published in 1578, included Ptolemy's twenty-seven maps, handsomely engraved, and supplemented by an index of place names and an enlarged boundary map of the Nile Delta. A total of 8 editions were published between 1578 and 1730. The editions issued after 1695 used new copper plates, with different cartouches.

Detailed Condition: