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Geografia cioe Descrittione Universalle Della Terra Partita in due volumi, Nel Primo de quali si contengono gli Otto Libri della Geografia di Cl. Tolomeo...

Stock#: 85286
Map Maker: Magini
Date: 1598
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 9.5 x 6 inches
Price: \$ 8,500.00



Description:

First Edition of Magini's Geography in Italian Translation.

Nice example of a fine 16th-century Italian translation of Ptolemy, published by Giovanni Batista and Giorgio Fratelli in Venice.

Beautifully engraved in the late Lafreri School style, this work contains sixty-three maps set into the text as well as one full-page world map. This method of setting the maps into the text allows for an easy flow between the prosaic description of the geography and the copperplate engraved maps. Magini's work is the only 16th-century Ptolemy published in Italy to use this setting.

The work preserves a marvelous look at 16th-century geography, with interesting features found throughout including mythical islands in the Arctic, an oversized southern continent, the cities of gold in California, Japan in the middle of the Pacific, and a Northwest passage near Greenland. Maps are both Ptolemaic and modern, with the Ptolemaic section including an abridged translation of the 2nd century work and the modern section including detailed descriptions of world geography.

The maps in the atlas, for the most part, represent faithful reductions of those in Mercator's atlas, predating the first official Hondius pocket issue of that famous work. Several maps, including those of the Americas, Northern Europe, and Tartaria follow Ortelius instead, showing the Magini used a compendium of sources when executing this work.



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Collation

[Title], [Dedication], a - i6, k8, aa - cc6, dd3, A6, B - C4, A - C6, [Title], D - Z6, Aa - Ll6, Mm8, a - e6.

Detailed Condition:

6mo. 17th- or 18th-century vellum. Spine in six compartments. Some loss of outer layer of vellum but spine holding strong. "Tolomeo | de | Magini" in uppermost compartment (half pencil, half 17th- or 18th-century Italian ink manuscript), "500" in lowermost compartment. Minor edge dampstains throughout. 2d4 torn in lower right, not affecting text. Ink and pencil manuscript to front and end pages. Lacking the double-page world map, otherwise complete.