



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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[Dedicated To A Leading English Feminist of the late 17th Century] Illustris Maria Chudleigh, Geo. Chudleigh, de Ashton in Com: Devon Baronetti Uxor, Ingenio, & Eruditione clara; Sappho Anglicana, sed proba, sed pudica, hanc Europae Tabulam P:S:F.C.

Stock#: 93269
Map Maker: Mela
Date: 1711
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 9.75 x 7.25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

With Dedication To One England's Leading Feminist Writers of the Late 17th and Early 18th Centur

Fascinating small map of Europe based upon the geography of Pomponius Mela, with an elaborate dedication and title.

A very uncommon map of Europe from an edition of Pomponius Mela's geography, published in 1711 by the Exeter scholar John Reynolds, with an homage to a renowned literary figure of the English society, Lady Mary Chudleigh.

Conceptualized by Pomponius Mela, one of the earliest Roman geographers, and brought to life by Reynolds, the map is a masterful rendition of a simplified Europe. Even with a minimalistic design approach, it manages to encapsulate the essence of the continent's geographical features. The cartographic representation is not laden with an overwhelming amount of place names, reflecting the designer's intent to emphasize the broad strokes of geographical context over the finer details of exhaustive site-specific identification.

The dedication of the map to Lady Mary Chudleigh adds another layer of intrigue and historical significance. An English poet and essayist of the late 17th and early 18th century, Lady Chudleigh was an



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advocate for women's education and rights, and her work often challenged the societal norms of her time. By likening Lady Chudleigh to an English Sappho - a reference to the ancient Greek poetess renowned for her lyric poetry - Reynolds not only honors Chudleigh's literary contributions but also acknowledges her role as a leading female voice of her era.

Moreover, the dedication enhances the map's value as a cultural artifact, intertwining the realms of geography, literature, and society in one singular creation. In its simplification, the map mirrors the direct yet potent style of Lady Chudleigh's writings; in its dedication, it encapsulates her influence and legacy.

The title translates as follows:

The illustrious Maria Chudleigh, wife of Sir George Chudleigh, of Ashton in the County of Devon, distinguished by her talent and learning; The English Sappho, but virtuous, but modest, dedicated this Map of Europe P:S:F:C.

The "P:S:F:C" likely stands for an abbreviation of a Latin phrase and could potentially stand for "Pro Studio Fecit Curavit," meaning "Made and cared for with study."

Detailed Condition: