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(Modern Spain) Hgisplania Novella [Hispania Novella]

Stock#: 98868
Map Maker: Berlinghieri
Date: 1482
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 19.5 x 15.25 inches
Price: \$ 19,500.00



Description:

The First Printed Modern Map of Spain and Portugal.

A nice example of Francesco Berlinghieri's map of modern Spain, the first printed modern map of Spain, from his famed *Septe Giornate della Geographia di Francesco Berlinghieri* (The Seven Days of Geography), published in Florence in 1482. Of the maps from Ptolemy that preceded Berlinghieri's, neither the 1477 Bologna Ptolemy nor the 1478 Rome Ptolemy included modern maps of Spain.

Berlinghieri's map varies considerably from the other modern map of Spain issued in 1482. Leinhart Holle's map of modern Spain, a woodcut first issued in Ulm in 1482, has an entirely different arrangement of mountains, a thinner peninsular shape, and extends to more outlying islands, such as the Azores. As a more focused engraving, Berlinghieri's map has more detail than Holle's.

The map covers all of the Iberian Peninsula, delineating the Kingdoms of Spain and Portugal, the Emirate of Grenada ("GRANATA", still under Muslim control when this map was issued), and the Principality of Catalonia. Major regions, such as Navarre, Biscay, Galicia, Castile, and Andalusia, are named. The eastern extent of the map covers the Balearics with the exclusion of Menorca.

Sources

According to Peerlings and Laurentius (page 24), Berlinghieri's modern map of Spain is an evolved representation influenced by earlier manuscript maps created by the Florentine miniaturist Pietro del Massaio. These manuscripts, dating from before 1456 to 1472, contained similar maps of Spain, France,



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and Italy and were noted for their resemblance to each other, yet with varying representational techniques. The striking similarity between these manuscript maps and those in Berlinghieri's printed version of the *Geography* indicates a continuation or adaptation of the same cartographic tradition. Berlinghieri's printed map, therefore, represents an improved version of these earlier works, situating it within a lineage of evolving geographical knowledge and cartographic practice, incorporating elements from both portolan charts and Ptolemaic maps.

Berlinghieri: A Unique Tradition of Cartography

The cartography of Francesco di Niccolo Berlinghieri is viewed as a distinct tradition within the framework of Ptolemaic mapmaking. Most scholars agree that Berlinghieri used sources different from his contemporaries to delineate the world's land masses. The configuration of the Mediterranean, in particular, appears to have drawn on alternative sources. A common explanation is that Berlinghieri, as a Florentine, had access to far older and more accurate portolan charts and possibly even sources from within the Islamic world. Unfortunately, confirming what those alternative sources might have been remains speculative.

An important distinction between his Ptolemaic atlas and other 15th-century versions was Berlinghieri's deliberate use of the archaic homeothermic or equidistant cylindrical projection, which is attributed to Ptolemy's predecessor and primary source of geographic information: Marinus of Tyre (c.100 CE). As far as we know, Ptolemy never actually made maps himself, so we do not know which projection he favored.

Nevertheless, by the time the first Ptolemaic Geographies were going into print, most mapmakers had shifted to the new trapezoidal projection attributed to German cartographer Donnus Nicolaus (c.1420-1490).

Cartographic scholar Peter Meurer points out that all known Ptolemaic Geographies from the 15th century were built directly on the manuscripts of Donnus Nicolaus but that Nicolaus himself used different projections over time. While the new trapezoidal projection, known as the "Donis-projection," was used in the Rome Ptolemy and the influential maps of Henricus Martellus, the Ulm edition returned to an equidistant cylindrical projection in order to present the new and updated understanding of Scandinavia based on the work of Danish cartographer Claudius Clavus.

Berlinghieri's *Septe Giornate* is the only 15th-century atlas to use multiple projections depending on what parts of the world were being presented. The creative process behind the *Septe Giornate* thus differed from that of contemporary Geographies.



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Detailed Condition:

Second state (In title, second letter is "G", an "A" is added between "S" and "P"). Minor loss at top and bottom, not affecting the image. Repairs to the edges, as illustrated. Good to VG.