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Tabula VI Asiae

Stock#: 15389
Map Maker: Fries
Date: 1535
Place: Strasbourg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 17 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking old color example of this important early map of the Middle East, from the 1535 edition of Lorenz Fries' *Geographia*, based upon the works of Claudius Ptolemy. Originally intended not for a Ptolemy edition but for a new *Chronica Mundi* being written by Martin Waldseemüller, whose death c.1520 caused the project to be shelved. So Fries' woodcuts were used to publish a smaller sized edition of the *Geographia*. On verso is a Latin text surrounded by ornate woodcut borders. Originally published in 1522, this second edition has a new title banderole.

Lorenz (Laurent) Fries was born in Alsace in c1490. He studied medicine at university, and established himself as a physician in France before settling in Strasbourg, in about 1519. There Fries met the printer and publisher Johann Grüninger, an associate of the St. Die group of scholars formed by, among others, Martin Waldseemüller. For the next five years, from about 1520 to about 1525, Fries worked in some capacity as a cartographic editor for or with Grüninger, exploiting the material that Waldseemüller had created from Ptolemy. Unfortunately, there is little evidence to help gauge the exact nature of the relationship.

Fries' first venture into mapmaking was in 1520, for that is the date found on a map of the World, bearing his monogram. The map was a reduction of Waldseemüller's wall-map of the World, published in 1507. The major project that Fries and Grüninger worked on was a new edition of the *Geographia* of Ptolemy, which was first published in 1522. Fries evidently edited the maps, in most cases simply producing a reduction of the equivalent map from the 1513 edition of the *Geographie Opus Novissima*. Fries also prepared three new maps for the *Geographia*: maps of South-East Asia and the East Indies, China and the World, but the geography of these derives from Waldseemüller's world map of 1507.

In 1525, Fries was forced to move on as he had exhausted the existing body of Waldseemüller's works. For



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whatever reason, his departure marks the end of his cartographic work, and he again turned to writing medical text books, which occupied him until his death in 1531 or 1532. The 1535 edition of Fries' *Geographia* was printed posthumously.

Detailed Condition:

Minor cracking and minute loss of the old color near the centerfold, which has been reinforced with Japan paper. Slight wormhole damage in the right and left upper margins, far from the printed image. Blue ink writing - (C) - left of center at the top.