



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

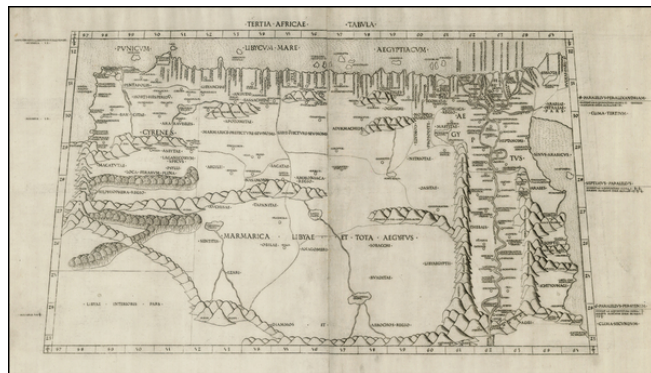
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Tertia Africae Tabula

Stock#: 25425
Map Maker: Ptolemy / Swenheym
Date: 1478 (1490)
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 14 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare early edition of Ptolemy's map of Northeastern Africa, extending from Egypt and the Red Sea (Sinus Arabicus) to Libya.

Fine example of Conrad Swenheym's finely engraved map. Swenheym introduced the printing press to Italy at the height of the Renaissance, having been apprenticed to Guttenberg. Initially, under the enthusiastic patronage of Pope Paul II, Swenheym concentrated on publishing texts, but later turned to producing the first illustrated *Cosmographia* in the early 1470s, when enthusiasm was not sustained by the Pope's successor, Sixtus IV.

Despite being beaten out by one year (for the honor of the earliest printed edition of Ptolemy's work) by Taddeo Crivelli, who published his edition in Bologna in 1477, the copper plates produced under Swenheym's close supervision, and finally printed just after his death in 1478, are considered vastly superior. The plates were then purchased by Petrus de Turre in 1490, who published the second edition, in which this map appeared. The only difference in the maps are the watermarks in the paper.

Detailed Condition: