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Sexta Asie Tabula

Stock#: 37140mp2
Map Maker: Waldseemüller
Date: 1513
Place: Lorraine
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 14.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A striking example of Waldseemüller's important early map of the Arabian Peninsula, from Martin Waldseemüller's 1513 edition of Ptolemy, published by Johann Schott in Strasbourg.

Waldseemüller's map of Arabia is a landmark in the history of cartography, which contributed to major advances in both Renaissance geography and map printing. As demonstrated by the present map, contemporary European geographic knowledge of the Arabian Peninsula was quite advanced. The overall outline of the peninsula is familiar to the modern eye, even if the size and frequency of the surrounding islands is somewhat exaggerated. During the late Medieval and early Renaissance periods, sophisticated manuscript maps of the region made by Arab scholars had fallen in to the hands of Europeans, especially by way of the Levant trade running through Venice. These sources informed Italian mapmakers, whose works eventually travelled north of Alps to be incorporated in maps printed in Germany and Alsace-Lorraine. Specifically, this work was based on the manuscript maps of Sanuto and Vesconte of c.1320, which were updated by Nicholaus Germanus in 1482 to include more cities and textual information.

The present map appeared as part of the first modern atlas, prepared by Martin Waldseemüller using the translation of Mathias Ringmann. This is one of the most important editions of Ptolemy, containing many new regional maps. Twenty new maps based on contemporary knowledge, such as the present work, were included by Waldseemüller, in addition to the traditional twenty-seven Ptolemaic maps derived from the 1482 Ulm edition.

Martin Waldseemüller (c.1470-c.1522) was one of the foremost cartographers of the first great period of global exploration, yet details of his sources and his personal history remain enigmatic. Educated at the University of Freiburg im Bresgau, Germany, he became the center of a circle of great humanist scholars



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based at the Abbey of St. Dié in Alsace. Waldseemüller and his associate Mathias Ringmann, prepared this edition of Ptolemy, partly at the expense of Duke Rene of Lorraine. It was brought to completion by Jacobus Eszler and Georgius Ubelin and published in Strasbourg by Johann Schott. The atlas also contained the first map in an atlas entirely devoted to America (Tabula terre nove), often called the "Admiral's map" after Columbus. The atlas's map of Lotharingia (the first map of the Duchy of Lorraine), printed in black, red and olive, is one the earliest examples of color-printing. This edition was reprinted in 1520 using the same woodcut blocks.

The present map is a critical component of any serious collection of maps of Arabia.

Detailed Condition:

Top margin and bottom margins expertly extended on the verso with period paper. Title expertly reinstated.