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Tabu Moder Anglie & Hiber

Stock#: 53276
Map Maker: Fries
Date: 1535
Place: Strasbourg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16.5 x 11.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the Earliest Obtainable Modern Maps of the British Isles

Nice example of the 1535 edition of Lorenz Fries modern map of the British Isles.

First published in Strasbourg by Johannes Gruninger in 1522, Fries map is based upon Waldseemuller's map of 1513. Fries has corrected the slanting Scotland and Cornwall, and has added many new towns, most notably along the southern and eastern coasts of England and Ireland - areas well known to European sailors and merchants. London and the Thames are named in the interior, along with the hills dividing Scotland and England. The mythical island of 'Brazil' appears off the west coast of Ireland.

Lorenz (Laurent) Fries was born in Alsace in about 1490. He studied medicine, apparently spending time at the universities of Pavia, Piacenza, Montpellier and Vienna. After completing his education, Fries worked as a physician in several places, before settling in Strassburg, in about 1519. While in Strassburg, Fries met the Strasbourg printer and publisher Johann Grüninger, an associate of the St. Die group of scholars formed by, among others, Walter Lud, Martin Ringmann and Martin Waldseemuller.

From 1520 to 1525, Fries worked with Gruninger as a cartographic editor, exploiting the corpus of material that Waldseemuller had created. Fries' first venture into mapmaking was in 1520, when he executed a reduction of Martin Waldseemuller's wall-map of the World, published in 1507. While it would appear that Fries was the editor of the map, credit is actually given in the title to Peter Apian. The map, *T ipus Orbis Universalis Iuxta Ptolomei Cosmographi Traditionem Et Americ Vespucii Aliorque Lustrationes A Petro Apiano Leysnico Elucubrat. An.o Dni MDXX*, and was issued in Caius Julius Solinus' *Enarrationes*,



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edited by Camers, and published in Vienna in 1520.

Fries next project was a new edition of the *Geographia* of Claudius Ptolemy, which was published by Johann Koberger in 1522. Fries originally intended for the maps included in this work to be part of a new *Chronica Mundi* being written by Martin Waldseemüller, whose death circa 1520 caused the project to be shelved. Instead, Fries used his woodcut maps to publish a smaller sized edition of Waldseemüller's *Geographia*. Fries evidently edited the original Waldseemüller maps, in most cases simply producing a reduction of the equivalent map from Waldseemüller's 1513 edition of the *Geographie Opus Novissima*, printed by Johann Schott. Fries also prepared three new maps for the *Geographie*: maps of South-East Asia and the East Indies, China and the World, but the geography of these maps derived from Waldseemüller's world map of 1507.

The 1522 edition of Fries work is very rare, suggesting that the work was not commercially successful. In 1525, an improved edition was issued, with a re-edit of the text by Wilibald Pirckheimer, from the notes of Johannes Regiomontanus. After Grüninger's death in 1531, the business was continued by his son Christoph, who seems to have sold the materials for the Ptolemy to two Lyon publishers, the brothers Melchior and Gaspar Trechsel, who published a joint edition in 1535, before Gaspar Trechsel published an edition in his own right in 1541.

Detailed Condition: