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Tabula Quarta Africae

Stock#: 60293
Map Maker: Waldseemüller
Date: 1513
Place: Strasbourg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition:
Size: 23 x 17.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Waldsemüller's 1513 Ptolemaic Map of Northern Africa with Superb Contemporary Hand-Color.

Striking, original-color antique map by Martin Waldseemüller, showing the ancient, Ptolemaic image of Africa. This map was published in Strasbourg in 1513.

The map shows a host of ancient landmarks, both mythical and real, including:

- The Nile flowing into the Mountains of the Moon: "Mons lune a quo nili paludes niues susapuit."
- The southern end of Africa flaring out to create a closed Indian Ocean.

This example of the map is in stunning contemporary hand-coloring by region.

1513 Strasbourg edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*

This map appeared in Waldseemüller's 1513 edition of Ptolemy's influential *Geographia*, printed by Waldseemüller's friend and collaborator Johann Schott. It is likely that Waldseemüller, along with the scholar Matthias Ringmann, started working on the project as early as 1505, but the death of their patron, René II, in 1508 resulted in the closure of their press at St. Dié. Additionally, Ringmann died in 1511. Schott and Waldseemüller finally finished the project in 1513, publishing it with Schott in Strasbourg.

The 1513 edition marked an important shift in the history of cartography because it was the first printing of Ptolemy to incorporate *tabulae novellae*, or modern maps, in addition to the ancient, Ptolemaic version of geography. The 27 original Ptolemaic maps were accompanied by 20 modern maps, of which this is one.



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All of its maps were printed from beautifully carved woodblocks made of pear wood. This edition of the *Geographia* was also the first to be organized so as to separate the ancient from the modern maps, to show how knowledge had changed since Ptolemy's time fourteen centuries earlier.

This map shows a region important to European commerce at a time when Europeans were beginning to know more about the region. It is a mixture of ancient and modern scholarship and was part of the hugely influential 1513 Strasbourg edition of Ptolemy. Waldseemüller was one of the most important cartographers of the fifteenth century and this map is a vital addition to any collector of Africa, Ptolemy, or Waldseemüller.

Detailed Condition:

Full contemporary hand-coloring.