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[World] with Book (Macrobius, Ambrosius Theodosius. In somnium Scipionis M. Tullii Ciceronis libri duo [and other texts])

Stock#: 60598
Map Maker: Macrobius
Date: 1483 (1524)
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 5.5 x 5.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An Important Medieval World Map

Fine example of the earliest edition of Macrobius' important Medieval world map, first published in Brescia in 1483. The present example is from a 1524 printing of Macrobius' *In Somnium Scipionis exposito*, with the cartographic content reversed (Britain is at the top right).

The works of the late Roman philosopher and grammarian Macrobius (c.395-436) were very popular during the Middle Ages. "His neoplatonic commentary on Cicero [the 'Dream of Scipio' from Book VI of *De Republica*], includes among many references to the pseudo-sciences, a geographic concept which is different from that of Ptolemy. The inhabited World north of the Equator is balanced by a southern continent and divided by water" (Shirley).

As noted by Shirley:

The inhabited world north of the Equator is balanced by a southern continent and divided from it by water. Among the roughly 150 manuscripts recorded by Destombes dating from 1200 to 1500 AD nearly 100 contain a simple map illustrating Macrobius's theories.

The first printed edition of Macrobius appeared in 1483, published in Brescia. Four different woodblock early examples of the map are known, as follows:

- Block 1: Brescia (1483, 1485 and 1501)
- Block 2: Venice 1489



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- Block 3: Venice 1492
- Block 4: Venice 1500

Later printings in 1521, 1528, 1568 and 1574 appear more frequently on the market. A 1535 Basel edition exists with a more modern outline of Africa shown.

The present example is accompanied by a copy of the book in a decorative leather binding.

Detailed Condition:

18th-century green calf. Spine in seven compartments divided by gilt tool, gild-lettered red morocco title piece in the second. Collation: Aviii, [aviii-rviii], [svi]; [Aavi], [Aviii-Oviii]; [Aax]