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India Tercera Nuova Tavola

Stock#: 64775
Map Maker: Ruscelli
Date: 1561
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 10 x 7 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Girolamo Ruscelli's *India Tercera Nuova Tavola* is one of the earliest obtainable modern maps of Southeast Asia.

The map is an enlarged version of Giacomo Gastaldi's miniature map of 1548, which was one of the earliest to introduce the Portuguese discoveries in the region. Ruscelli first published the map in his *La Geographi di Claudio Tolomeo* (Venice, 1561).

The map occupies a broad swath of Asia from the Bay of Bengal to southern China in the north, and down just below the Equator to the south. While not particularly accurate by modern standards, Gastaldi's efforts to map Southeast Asia were nevertheless a marked improvement on the Ptolemaic conceptions that hitherto appeared on printed maps that depicted the region.

The incomparably well-connected Gastaldi was able to break Lisbon's policy of cartographic secrecy and gain access to early Portuguese manuscript charts of Southeast Asia. Shown prominently on the Malay Peninsula, in the center of the map, is Malacca, the base of operations established by Afonso de Albuquerque in 1511. From Malacca, various Portuguese voyages set out to make the maiden European connections with various kingdoms.

Just to the west and south of Malacca, one will notice "Camatra" (Sumatra) and Java. Extending knowledge further, in 1512, Antonio de Abreu set out to explore Timor and Ambon (shown on the map), while his close associate Francisco Serrão reconnoitered the Moluccas. Looking further to the north, one will see "Lachina", the southern coasts of China, which were visited by Jorge Alvares in 1513.



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India Tercera Nuova Tavola a truly fascinating map that represents the beginning of the modern mapping of Southeast Asia.

Detailed Condition:

Some minor toning at the centerfold and in the blank margins.