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## [ Arabian Peninsula ] Tabula Asiae VI

**Stock#:** 65903  
**Map Maker:** Ruscelli  
**Date:** 1574  
**Place:** Venice  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 9.5 x 7 inches  
**Price:** \$ 345.00



### Description:

Fine dark impression of Ruscelli's map of the Saudi Peninsula and surrounding waters.

The map is based upon the work of Claudius Ptolemy. Ptolemy was an Alexandrian mathematician, astronomer, geographer and astrologer. He lived in the city of Alexandria in the Roman province of Egypt. He is known to have used Babylonian observations and Babylonian lunar theory.

Ptolemy wrote several scientific treatises, three of which were of importance to later Byzantine, Islamic and Western European science. The first is the astronomical treatise now known as the *Almagest*. The second is the *Geographia*, which is a thorough discussion of the geographic knowledge of the Greco-Roman world. The third is the astrological treatise in which he attempted to adapt horoscopic astrology to the Aristotelian natural philosophy of his day. This is most commonly known as the *Tetrabiblos*.

The present example is the second state of the map, which was first published in 1561 and revised in 1574. It is the final 1598 edition which is re-engraved and revised to include a Sea Monster and Sailing Ship.

While the earlier editions appear on the market with some frequency, this final edition is much scarcer than its predecessors.

Ruscelli's Atlas is an expanded edition of Gastaldi's Atlas of 1548, which has been called the most comprehensive atlas produced between Martin Waldseemüller's *Geographiae* of 1513, and the Abraham Ortelius *Theatrum* of 1570. Ruscelli and Gastaldi's maps were beautifully engraved on copper, marking a



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turning point in the history of cartography. From that point forward, the majority of cartographic works used this medium. As it was a harder material than wood it gave the engraver the ability to render more detail. Gastaldi sought the most up-to-date geographical information available, making the modern maps in Ruscelli's *Geographia* among the best modern maps of the period.

**Detailed Condition:**