



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Northern Africa) Afr: IIII Tab:

Stock#: 75626
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1584 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Fair
Size: 18.5 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Gerard Mercator's Ptolemaic Map of North Africa

Original hand-color example of Mercator's regional map of North Africa, based upon the writings of Claudius Ptolemy, from an early edition of Gerard Mercator's *Tabulae geographicae Cl. Ptolemaei admentem*. ..

The map shows northeastern Africa, including Ethiopia, Libya, Egypt, and the Red Sea. Ptolemaic geography is followed in the interior of the continent, with the Blue and White Nile both being sourced from their respective lakes. The Gulf of Libya is overly pronounced compared to the smaller Red Sea.

While Mercator is perhaps best known for his modern maps and the map projection which bears his name, one of his life goals was to produce his own version of Ptolemy's *Geographia*. As a second installment of his *Atlas sive Cosmographia* . . ., Mercator published an authentic version of Ptolemy's seminal work, deliberately devoid of the distracting interpretations and misinterpretations by earlier editors intent on improving the Egyptian geographer's seminal work. Mercator's goal was an accurate portrait of Ptolemy's second-century view of the world. To understand the present, the mapmaker believed, one must appreciate the past.

The atlas, published in 1578, included Ptolemy's twenty-seven maps, handsomely engraved, and supplemented by an index of place names and an enlarged boundary map of the Nile Delta. A total of 8 editions were published between 1578 and 1730.

Detailed Condition:



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Original hand-color with heavy oxidation-related losses along the verdigris (green) coloring. The map could be restored into a nice example but is sold as-is.