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(Spain & Portugal) Europae II Tab

Stock#: 78292
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1584
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 17.5 x 13.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine full-color example of Mercator's map of the Iberian Peninsula, from his *Geographia*, the most skillfully produced of all the Ptolemy editions. This attractive map shows Spain and Portugal as they were in classical times, with fascinating ancient detail.

Numerous cities and towns are named, and their size on the map corresponds to their relative importance. The biggest city on the map is Clunia Colonia, one of the most important Roman cities in Hispania which was later abandoned during the Visigoth era. Barcelona is termed Barcinon, and Madrid wouldn't be founded until the ninth century. The map includes a number of decorative elements, including sailing ships, sea monsters, and a large cartouche.

Mercator's intention was to produce an atlas of the classical world, that would serve as a companion to his modern atlas, as one part of a description of the universe. Mercator attempted to return to the pure form of the original Ptolemaic atlas, discarding the modern information which was added during the prior hundred years to various printed editions of Ptolemy. As it happened, however, Mercator only ever produced the classical atlas, and his modern atlas would be published posthumously by Hondius. The atlas is noteworthy for its longevity with the original printing plates were still in use in 1730, over one hundred and fifty years after they were first engraved.

Detailed Condition:

Some minor staining in the margins, but overall VG+.