Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Africae Propriae Tabula In qua, Punica regna uides; Tyrios, et Agenoris urbem ... 1590 [shows Malta]

Stock#: 79379
Map Maker: Ortelius

Date: 1624
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 13 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Intricate Example of Ortelius' Map of the Carthaginian Empire, Inspired by the Famous Giacomo Gastaldi

Interesting Ortelius map of North Africa and the nearby Mediterranean including Sicily and Malta. Based on Gastaldi's famous eight-sheet map of Africa, this map contains exceptional detail and is one of the only Ortelius maps to focus on either Northern Africa or the Carthaginian Empire.

This map is oriented northward and shows the northern coast of Africa between modern-day Algeria (*Mauritaniae Caesariensis*) and Libya (*Libyae Interioris pars*). The map centers on the Carthaginian Empire (modern-day Tunisia and Libya). Also depicted are the islands of Sicily (*Siciliae*) and Malta (*Melita*).

This map is impressively detailed, particularly when compared to other Ortelius maps that give much less detail to the African coast. Mountain ranges and forests dot the landscape, giving readers a sense of the physical geography of the area. Rivers are carefully rendered, and cities are drawn as miniature views.

The detail of this map comes from a variety of sources, both ancient and contemporary to Ortelius. Giacomo Gastaldi's famous eight-sheet map of Africa was certainly an influence for Ortelius; having been published less than 50 years prior, it would have some of the most up-to-date information on the landforms and configuration of the African continent. However, as usual, Ortelius also cites classical scholars such as Pliny and Ptolemy, whose writings include information about many landforms and cities.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037
www.raremaps.com
(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Africae Propriae Tabula In qua, Punica regna uides; Tyrios, et Agenoris urbem ... 1590 [shows Malta]

The map is adorned with a large, striking title cartouche which refers to the Punic region (*Punica* was the Latin name for Carthage). Ornate strapwork is embellished by fruits and a number of angelic figures. Beneath the title is text dedicating the map to the honorable and illustrious Lord Christophorus from Assonleville. Lord Christophorus was the ruler of Altevilla as well as a knight, diplomat, and advisor to King Philip II. This is one of two Ortelius maps dedicated to him.

An additional cartouche in the bottom left corner shows an inset map of the Carthage, including notable buildings inside the city as well as important cities nearby. Several small boats sail the waters outside the city. Next to the inset map is a list of places whose locations are unknown. Like the title cartouche, the strapwork on these cartouches is embellished with flora and fauna, making them particularly ornate.

Carthage and the Punic Wars

The city-state of Carthage was a major power in the western Mediterranean from the sixth to the second centuries BCE. It controlled the Carthaginian Empire, which spread from North Africa to Spain to various islands in the Mediterranean such as Sardinia, Malta, and part of Sicily. Carthage was both a commercial center and a military power, which allowed the city to maintain a strong hold on its wealthy Mediterranean empire.

As Rome gained power in the 200s BCE, the two cities came into conflict over land and resources. Rome attacked Carthage in a conflict over control of Sicily, sparking the first of three long Punic Wars. The Punic Wars lasted over a century and cost the lives of many soldiers on both sides. Rome eventually destroyed the city of Carthage and emerged victorious. Rome's victory in the Punic Wars set the foundation for the expansion of the Roman Empire and its rise to power in the Mediterranean.

Parergon

Although best known for his world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum,* the *Parergon* was a project of personal interest and the work that Ortelius himself considered his greatest achievement. He had a deep curiosity about classical antiquity which spurred him to create the *Parergon* maps, and the amount of time and detail he put into each map is clearly evident. Ortelius hand drew each map of the *Parergon*, which required considerable skill and knowledge of the area's history and geography. It is considered the first historical atlas.

Parergon means supplementary and, accordingly, the first three *Parergon* maps were published as supplements to the 1579 edition of the *Theatrum*, which had already been in print for nine years. Over time, successive editions of the *Theatrum* were supplemented with more *Parergon* maps, and there are 55

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037
www.raremaps.com
(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Africae Propriae Tabula In qua, Punica regna uides; Tyrios, et Agenoris urbem ... 1590 [shows Malta]

known plates overall. The *Parergon* was also published as its own atlas separate from the *Theatrum* on two occasions, once in 1595 and again in 1624.

The *Parergon* was highly successful both as a supplement to the *Theatrum* and on its own. It was variously translated into French, German, Italian, and English and regularly printed until 1612. Further editions were more sporadic but still popular, such as the 1624 edition which was published twenty-six years after Ortelius' death in 1598.

This map first appeared in the 1590 edition of the *Parergon*. It eventually appeared in two states, as in the 1624 edition additional hatching was added to the lower left and upper right corner cartouches.

This detailed map is an exceptional depiction of North Africa and a testament to Ortelius' skill. It would be an impactful addition to a collection of African maps, Ortelius maps, or maps of classical antiquity.

Detailed Condition: