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Stock#: 84006
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1584
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 13 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of Ortelius's map of coastal North Africa and the Mediterranean, from his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas of the world.

The map extends from Morocco and the Sahara to Libya and shows most of the Mediterranean, including the Balearic Islands, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, and Italy, along with the Canaries off the coast of Africa. Detail in central Africa is largely down to myth and legend, with a number of cities shown, many rivers and lakes, and even copious notes. Some of these cities, although incorrectly placed, are not completely fictional. Guargala, described as a "*city elegantly built*," is now known as Ouargla and is one of the largest cities in the Algerian portion of the Sahara.

The map is decorative, with simple stylistic tendencies commonplace in Ortelius's early maps. In the Mediterranean, a majestic sea monster is seen, a dolphin hybrid is off the coast of Lisbon, and a large ship is found under the text reading Golfo de las Yeguas.

Ortelius based his map on one published by an anonymous mapmaker in Venice in 1560, which itself was based on Gastaldi's 1556 map of Africa.

Detailed Condition: