



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

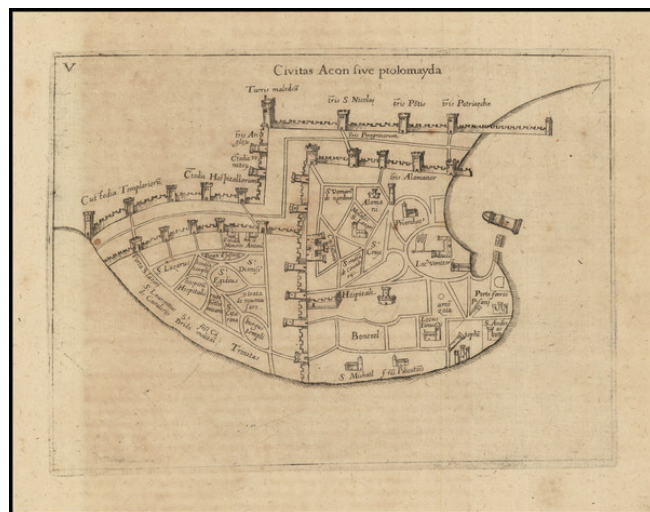
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(Acre during the Crusades) Civitas Acon sive Ptolomayda

Stock#: 88800
Map Maker: Bongars / Vesconte
Date: 1611
Place: Hanover
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 7.5 x 5.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The earliest printing of Pietro Vesconte's Important 14th-Century Map of Acre.

The rare 1611 Johann Bongars edition of the Vesconte chart of Acre, one of the finest Medieval town plans of the city.

Based on an early 14th-century manuscript plan by Vesconte, this printed map shows the port city of Acre during the time of the Crusades. Compared with Vesconte's [map of Jerusalem](#), this map of Acre is much more detailed because the city had been controlled by Europeans within living memory. The Knights Templar, of the Second Kingdom of Jerusalem, are referred to on the map as "Custodia Templarioru," it appears that the Knights Hospitaller are also mentioned. Individual buildings are shown, as are roads and other fine detail.

The city of Acre was recaptured in 1291 by Arabic forces and destroyed to prevent it from being recaptured by Europeans. As such, the map preserves a view of Acre before it was razed.

Bongars and the Printing of Vesconte's Map

Pietro Vesconte was a Genoese cartographer and one of the earliest creators of portolan charts. He operated primarily out of Venice, and greatly influenced Italian and Catalan mapmaking throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. He is widely regarded as having been the first professional mapmaker to habitually sign and date his works. Vesconte's portolan of the Eastern Mediterranean (1311), is the oldest known signed and dated map.



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Vesconte created a groundbreaking 'Portulano', or World Map, which contained many geographically progressive elements. He was also the first mapmaker to accurately map the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and (relatively) the Holy Land and his depiction of Great Britain was a marked improvement over his predecessors. At least four of his multi-chart atlases survive, dating from 1313 to 1321.

Johann Bongars created this finely executed version of the Vesconte map as part of the greater intellectual movement that flourished in Europe, and in Germany in particular, roughly from 1450 to 1650, during which scholars, heavily influenced by the enlightened ethic of Humanism, sought to acquire, preserve and learn from the most progressive elements of Classical and Medieval thought. These scholars sought to go "ad fontes", or 'to the original source' of the knowledge, or as close to it as possible.

In 1611, Bongars printed his *Gesta Dei Per Francosi*, which included a collection of maps by Vesconte as well as Marino Sanudo's text on the Crusades. Sanudo was a Venetian statesman and geographer best known for his lifelong attempts to revive the crusading spirit and movement. He wrote his great work, the *Secreta* or *Liber Secretorum Fidelium Crucis*, also called *Historia Hierosolymitana*, *Liber de expeditione Terrae Sanctae*, and *Opus Terrae Sanctae*.

Detailed Condition:

Some toning.