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(Nuremberg Chronicle) [Geneology of the Virgin Mary]

Stock#: 98722
Map Maker: Schedel
Date: 1493
Place: Nuremberg
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 20.5 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 375.00



Description:

Modern Heresy! Depiction of the Holy Kinship and St. Anne

An engraved genealogy of Mary and Joseph as understood by the people of the late 1400s. The genealogy illustrated how key figures in the Biblical canon are related to one another and Jesus. Accompanying the family tree are several scenes from the lives of John the Baptist and Saint Anne. These scenes are connected by a vine held by the husbands of Saint Anne.

This piece is exceptionally interesting because it reflects an older interpretation of Jesus and his family. This view, known as the Holy Kinship, is the extended family of Jesus originating from Saint Anne, the mother of Mary. This belief suggests that Anne was the grandmother to Jesus, John the Baptist, and five of the twelve apostles. All these people are pictured along the family vine to illustrate their divinity and place of importance in the Medieval hierarchy of worship. Depictions of the Holy Kinship were quite popular in religious art of the late 1400s and early 1500s, especially in Germany which explains the inclusion of this engraving in the *Nuremberg Chronicle*.

The inclusion of the Holy Kinship also puts a unique bit of historical context on this piece. Before the Council of Trent (1545-1563), Christian doctrine was far from standardized, and some noncanonical texts informed the beliefs of Medieval Christians. These included the story of St. Anne whose three marriages (*trinubium*) resulted in three Marys, all of whom were mothers to key figures in the Bible. Anne was honored as a matriarch of Christendom and worshipped like the Virgin Mary. After the Council of Trent, the Church made a concerted effort to standardize doctrine and root out apocryphal tales such as those of Anne and her descendants. As a result, notions of the Holy Kinship were viewed as heretical with Mary supplanting Anne as the matriarchal symbol of Christianity.



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This leaf comes from Hartmann Schedel's famous 1493 publication *Nuremberg Chronicle* (*Liber Chronicarum*) which related the history of the world from biblical to contemporary times. Overall, this leaf is unique in that it illustrates a bygone belief that was popular for the time and place Schedel published his work. A piece of religious history with a great story behind it.

Detailed Condition:

Manuscript annotations on top right, unclear when made but possibly contemporary. Some foxing as pictured. Toning throughout, largely along the margins.