Double-page engraved map, on two sheets joined, on laid paper, with a watermark of a T within a circle.

NORTHERN AFRICA

Quarta Africae Tabula.

Author
[PTOLEMAEUS, Claudius]

Publication date
1490].

Publisher
Petrus de Turre,

Publication place
[Rome,

Physical description
Double-page engraved map, on two sheets joined, on laid paper, with a watermark of a T within a circle.

Dimensions
401 by 553mm. (15.75 by 21.75 inches).

Notes
A map of northern Africa on a larger scale, showing ‘Aetheopia’ and ‘Libya’ which now covers Libya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt. The entire Red Sea (‘Sinus Arabicus’) is visible and Syria, Israel (‘Iudea’) and Saudi Arabia are marked on the Middle Eastern side.

Map from the beautiful second Rome edition of Ptolemy's Geographia. "This handsome edition is a reprinting of the copper-plate maps of the 1478 Ptolemy [the first Rome edition by Conrad Sweynheym and Arnold Buckinck, whose] maps are considered the finest Ptolemaic ones produced up to the time that the great Mercator engraved his Ptolemy of 1578… It is believed that Sweynheym was the one who first thought of applying the very new art of copper-engraving to the printing of maps, and he might have taken a hand in the actual engraving of them himself" (World Encompassed). While the Bologna edition of 1477 was the first atlas to use copperplate maps, the present series is generally regarded as superior for its clear captions, accurate projections and overall design. Also, there are indications the Bologna edition was hurried through the press: the captions were not engraved but stamped into the plates. The early Italian Ptolemys, particularly the Rome editions, are "superb testimonials of Italian craftsmanship without the picturesque but unscientific monsters of the medieval maps or the addition of the adventitious decoration of later work, relying for their beauty solely on the delicacy of their execution and the fineness of the material employed" (Tooley).

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 12978

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