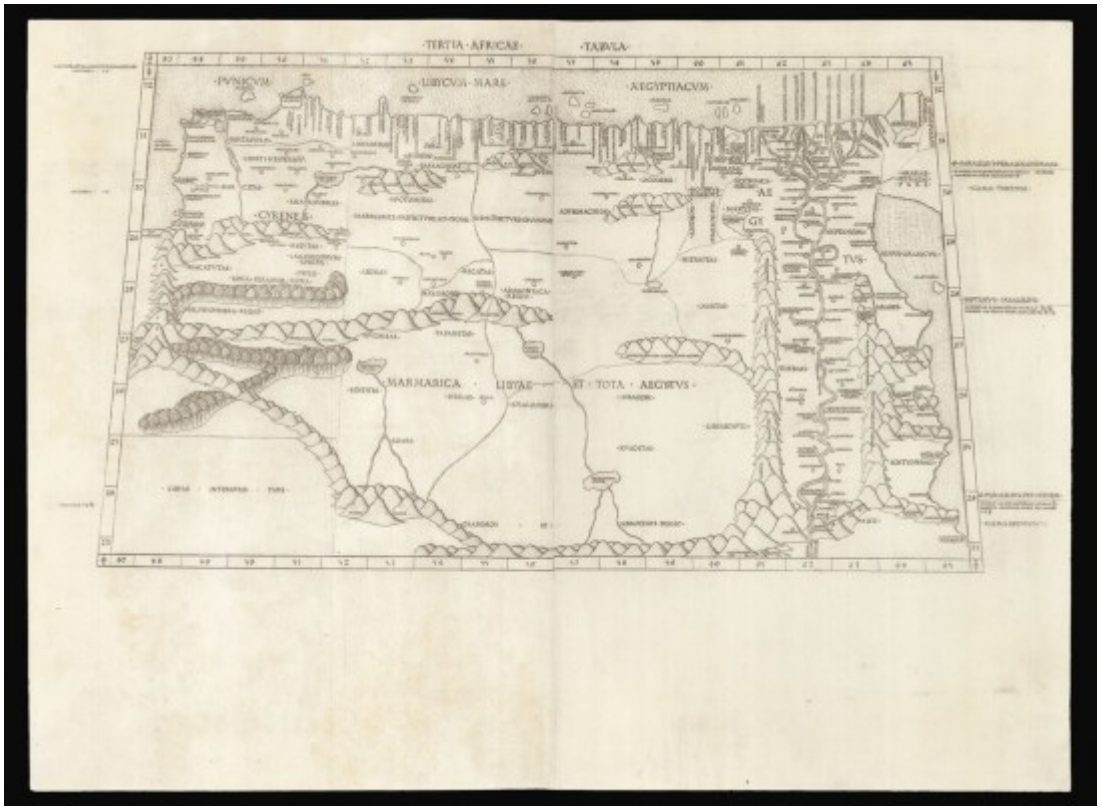


Double-page engraved map, on laid paper, no watermark, small tear to lower right margin skilfully repaired, not effecting image.

NORTHERN AFRICA

Tertia Africae Tabula

Author
[PTOLEMAEUS, Claudius]

Publication date
1490].

Publisher
Petrus de Turre,

Publication place
[Rome,

Physical description
Double-page engraved map, on laid paper, no watermark, small tear to lower right margin skilfully repaired, not effecting image.

Dimensions
406 by 557mm. (16 by 22 inches).

Notes
This map shows an area of northern Africa from Egypt to Libya. The Nile Valley and Delta is shown in some detail. The Red Sea (‘Sinus Arabicus’) appears to the east.

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
BMC IV, 133; BSB-Ink P-861; Goff P-1086; HC 13541; Nordernskiöld 7; Sabin 66474; Shirley 4; The World Encompassed 40.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 12977

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