

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

THE BALKAN PENINSULA

Nona Europe Tabula

Author
[PTOLEMAEUS, Claudius]

Publication date
1490].

Publisher
Petrus de Turre,

Publication place
[Rome,

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

Dimensions
407 by 556mm. (16 by 22 inches).

Notes
The map shows an area corresponding to Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Northern Greece and part of Turkey. Istanbul is named, although the Bosphorus is misplaced at the wrong end of the Sea of Marmara.

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: 12975

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