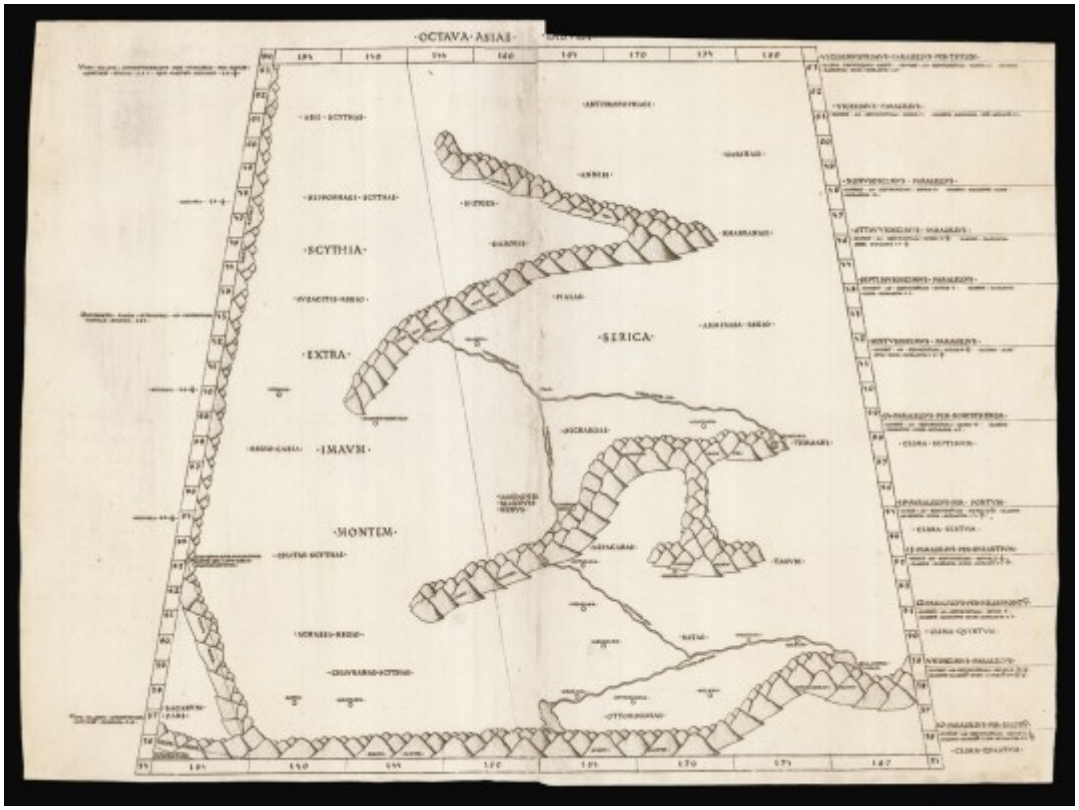

Double-page engraved map, on two sheets joined, no watermark in either sheet, trimmed to upper right margin with loss to title, several small wormholes to gutter skilfully repaired, manuscript annotations to verso.

THE HIMALAYAS

Octava Asiae Tabula

Author
[PTOLEMAEUS, Claudius]

Publication date
1490].

Publisher
Petrus de Turre,

Publication place
[Rome,

Physical description
Double-page engraved map, on two sheets joined, no watermark in either sheet, trimmed to upper right margin with loss to title, several small wormholes to gutter skilfully repaired, manuscript annotations to verso.

Dimensions
392 by 535mm. (15.5 by 21 inches).

Notes
A beautiful map of the ancient Scythian lands in Central Asia, to the east of the Pamir Mountain

range, and north of the Himalayas. From the 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: 12983

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