



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

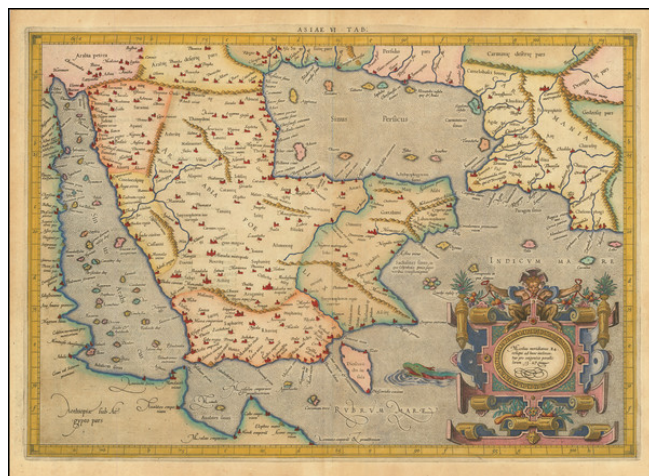
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[Arabian Peninsula] Asiae VI Tab.

Stock#: 89184
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1595
Place: Duisburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 13.5 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

Striking example of Mercator's Ptolemaic map of the Middle East.

The Asiae VI Tab. by Gerard Mercator is a fascinating testament to the enduring influence of Claudius Ptolemy's geographical concepts, offering a detailed representation of regions such as Arabia, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf. This map, hailing from the 1595 edition of Mercator's *Geographia*, resonates with a profound sense of reverence for Ptolemaic principles.

Gerard Mercator, born in 1512 in Flanders, Belgium, is best known for his influential Mercator projection and the innovative use of the term "Atlas" for a collection of maps. However, beyond these groundbreaking contributions, Mercator harbored a deep fascination for Ptolemaic cartography.

Claudius Ptolemy, a Greco-Roman scholar of the 2nd century, significantly impacted Mercator's life and work. His book, *Geographia*, was a trove of geographic knowledge, describing the world with the Mediterranean at its center. Ptolemy's work, while subject to inaccuracies due to limited explorations of the time, introduced longitude and latitude and had a profound impact on mapmaking in the 15th and 16th Centuries.

Mercator was captivated by Ptolemy's vision of the world and made it his lifelong project to refine and enhance Ptolemaic maps based on evolving geographical knowledge. His intent was not to contradict or challenge Ptolemy, but to build upon the foundations that the Greek scholar had laid.

The Asiae VI Tab. is a prime example of Mercator's Ptolemaic quest. The map portrays Arabia, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf, integrating Ptolemy's geographical outlines with Mercator's corrections based



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on more contemporary data. The map's exquisite details and precise renderings hint at Mercator's dedication to the craft and his respect for Ptolemaic principles.

Though Mercator's fame primarily rests on his original cartographic innovations, his works like Asiae VI Tab. reveal a different facet of his intellectual journey. They showcase his commitment to marrying the past's wisdom with the present's knowledge, thus bridging the gap between ancient and modern geography.

Detailed Condition: