A Collection of Maps from the 1482 Ulm Ptolemy
In 1482 Lienhart Holle in Ulm published a revised edition of Ptolemy’s *Geographia* with the reworking of the Ptolemaic corpus by the cartographer Nicolaus Germanus Donis. It was the first atlas published north of the Alps and the first with illustrated woodcut maps. The atlas included five additional “modern” maps: Italy, Spain, France, Scandinavia, and the Holy Land. The atlas would be the first book printed by Lienhart Holle, however, it would appear that the venture proved ruinously expensive and his business would go bankrupt shortly after publication. The remaining sheets, the woodblocks and the types passed to Johann Reger in Ulm, who reissued the work in 1486.

As well as the modern maps, the atlas bears some other notable firsts. It was the first time that maps were signed by the artist responsible for the woodcutting; in this case Johannes of Armsheim, who signed the world map, and incorporated a backwards N into the woodcut text on each map. It is also the first to print the accompanying text on the verso of the map to which it refers. Another important feature of the Ulm edition is the introduction of the publisher’s colouring upon the maps. Maps from the edition of 1482 usually have a rich blue colour in the sea made using lapis lazuli. This was replaced with a soft brown colour in 1486. We are proud to offer a selection of maps from the edition of 1482 with fine, vibrant, original blue colour.

The Ulm Ptolemy’s modern map of Spain

*Tabula Moderna Hispanie.*

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight dampstaining to upper portion of map.

The modern map of Spain printed in the Ulm edition of Ptolemy’s “Geographia” of 1482, is one of the earliest obtainable printed “modern” maps of Spain. The various regions of Spain are clearly marked, with the Kingdom of Navarre highlighted in green, and Portugal in light yellow wash.

ref:2089 £15,000
Southeast Asia

Undecima Asie Tabula.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour.

One of the earliest obtainable printed maps of the area. The map is labelled “India Extra Gangem” (India Beyond the Ganges). To the east of the Ganges Ptolemy marks the “Aurea regio”, the kingdom of gold. Further down we come to the “Sinus Sabaricus” which is most probably the Gulf of Martban, whose eastern shores begin the Malay Peninsular. The Malay Peninsular would then be the small promontory marked “Curracherson”, with the “Sinus Perlimulicus” the Gulf of Siam, although some have suggested that “Curracherson” is Sumatra. China (“Sina Regio”) is placed to the east of the map, and forms the eastern shore to a landlocked Indian Sea.

ref: 2090 £25,000
**The Balkans**

*Nona Europe Tabula.*

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour.

The map extends from the Carpathian mountains in the north to the Dardanelles in the south. To the west the island of Corfu is picked out in red, with the tip of Turkey (“Asie minoris pars”) to the east. The map is dominated by “Datia” (The Dacian Empire) covering parts of modern day Romania, Serbia, and Bulgaria. The Dacian Empire was subsumed into the Roman Empire at the beginning of the first century AD.

ref: 2091

£10,000
**Russia and Eastern Europe**

*Octavia Europe Tabula.*

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

The map extends from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Crimea and the Black Sea. To the west is the Vistula river (“istula fluvius”), with a distended Azov Sea in the east. The majority of the map is marked “Sarmatia Europe” - the Sarmatian kingdom ruled a great swathe of central Asia between the fifth century BC and the fourth century AD. At its peak around the first century B.C. the empire stretched to the banks of the river Vistula.

ref: 2092  
£20,000
India

Decima Asie Tabula.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

The map bears little resemblance to the Indian subcontinent as we know it today. Ptolemy’s miscalculation of the length of the Indian coastline, coupled with his underestimation of the circumference of the globe, led to the subcontinents distortion, with the cartographer attempting to cram too much information into too little a space.

ref: 2093  
£25,000
Cyprus And The Middle East

Quarta Asiac tabula.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

To the west is depicted “Ciprus” (Cyprus), with the Mediterranean Sea marked “Mare Siriacum” (the Syrian Sea). To the east coast of the Mediterranean are shown “Siria” (Syria) and “Palestina Iudea” (Palestine). Further east Mesopotamia (Mesopotamia - the land between two rivers), is marked together with “Arabia Deserta”, and “Babilonia”. To the far right the Persain Gulf is marked “Sinus Persicus”.

ref: 2094  £30,000
Holy Land

Tabula Moderna Terre Sancte.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

“The map is orientated to the east, and shows the whole of Palestine on both sides of the Jordan divided into the 12 Tribes. The shore line runs from Sidon to Gaza. South of a fantasy Carmel Mountain there is a big island, called the Castle of the Pilgrims (Atlit of today), and a similar but smaller island north of Jaffa called Assur. The Carmel Mountain is misshapen. The Jordan River in its wide meanderings is shown as a thin line” (Laor).

The map of Palestine is based upon maps by Petrus Vesconte, published by Marino Sanuto in c.1320.

ref: 2095 £25,000
Roman Gaul

Tertia Europe Tabula.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

All the Gallic provinces are named, including Aquitania, Belgica, Lugdunensis, and Narbonensis. Gaul is bounded by the river Rhine ("Renus flu.") and the Alps to the east, and the Pyrenees to the south west.

ref: 2096  £8,000
France

Tabula Moderna Gallia.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

The map is one of the earliest obtained maps of “modern” France. The map shows mountains as braun caterpillars, rivers as thin black lines, with bridges depicted as keyboards! Cities are marked by a small circle, with major cities, most notably Avignon, with its Papal links, marked by a church. She is bounded by the river Rhine (“Renus flu.”) and the Alps to the east, and the Pyrenees to the south west. To the upper of the map southern England is depicted, with London (“Londra”) marked upon the river Thames.

ref: 2098 £8,000
Central Asia and China

Octava Asie Tabula.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

This striking map depicts Central Asia and part of China, as envisaged by the second century A.D cartographer Claudius Ptolemaeus.

ref: 2099 £6,000
AfricA

Quarta Affrice Tabula

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

To the north is the Mediterranean Sea populated by numerous islands. North Africa has been divided into three parts: “Libia Interior” to the west; “Etiopia Sub Egipto” to the east; and “Etiopia Interior” to the south. The bottom of the map is marked “Terra Incognita” (Unknown Land). The Nile is depicted being fed by three lakes, which in turn get their water from the “montes lunae” (Mountains of the Moon). The Red Sea is named and rendered in vivid red. To the east of the map the Arabian Peninsular is depicted and named “Arabie felicis pars”. To the bottom right is a landlocked Indian sea.

ref: 2100

£20,000
Pakistan and Afghanistan

Nona Asie Tabula.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

The four areas depicted at the top of the map roughly conform to modern day Afghanistan. “Gedrosia” conforms to south western Pakistan, with the Indus river lying upon its eastern border.

ref: 2101 £8,000
**Germany and Eastern Europe**

*Quarta Europe Tabula.*

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

The map stretches from the river Rhine ("Renus flu.") in the west to the river Vistula ("Istula flu.") in the east, and from Denmark in the north to the river Danube in the south.

ref: 2102  £8,000
**EGYPT**

*Tertia Africe Tabula.*

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

To the east of Egypt the Red Sea has been misnamed the Arabian Gulf (“Sinus Arabicus”). To her west is the Roman province of Cyrenaica, modern day eastern Libya. The province was named after one of the great classical cities of the ancient world Cyrene, the “Athens of Africa”.

ref: 2103

£10,000
Central Asia

Septima Asie Tabula.

420 by 565mm. (16.5 by 22.25 inches).

Double-page woodcut map, fine original hand-colour, slight damp staining to upper margin slightly affecting image.

The map covers most of the “Stans” Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, parts of Iran, and a squashed Caspian Sea to the right. The ancient Scythian kingdom dominates the upper part of the map. To the east is a heavily wooded area marked “Sacha Regio”.

ref: 2104  £8,000