



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(The First Map of the Bay of Naples) Il Vero Disegno In Sui Propio Luogho Ritratto Del In Felice Paese Di Posuolo Quale E. M. 60 et del Monte di Duovo Nato In Mare Et In Terra , , , 28 De Setembre 1538 . . .

Stock#: 73924
Map Maker: Salamanca
Date: 1538
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 17 x 11.75 inches
Price: \$ 19,500.00



Description:

The First Cartographic Depiction of a Contemporary Major Volcanic Event

Rare early map of the Bay of Naples and environs, showing the contemporary eruption of the Phlegraean Fields in September of 1538. This is also the first printed map to focus in as much detail on the city of Naples; the first true map of the city would not be published until twenty-two years later.

This map is extremely narrow in its focus, it covers the two northern harbors in the Gulf of Naples, effectively stretching from just north of Pompeii to the Cape Miseno west of the city. Detail on the map is stunning, being a striking example of the early Lafreri-school design. The map is covered with decorative portrayals of ships, mountains, and more, to say nothing of the magnificently depicted Campi Flegrei volcano in full eruption. Vesuvius, just outside of the city, is shown as a towering mountain with sharp and steep sides.

The depiction of the Monte Nuovo eruption of 1538 is remarkable as a piece of 16th-century ephemera. The map seeks to capture a fleeting moment, which it does successfully: images of this eruption would persist in maps of the area for nearly a century.

Monte Nuovo Volcano

The last and only known historical eruption of the Campi Flegrei (Phlegraean Fields) caldera occurred in 1538. Following a rapid period of uplift following a long period of subsidence and a series of foreshock



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earthquakes, the volcano erupted on September 29th, ejecting pumice and smoke. The volcanic style changed rapidly over the early period of the eruption, as water infiltration changed the reaction dynamics of the magma.

The eruption lasted for over a week, with a sudden explosion on October 6th killing 24 visitors. Ash flow affected regions as far as Apulia and Calabria, with large fragments landing all over Naples.

This eruption was very important in the history of science because it was the first significant eruption to be documented by numerous witnesses, which have allowed modern researchers to accurately ascertain the eruptive style and nature of the event. This map represents an early effort to document the event, showing the city of Trepergole which would subsequently be destroyed, and documenting the subsidence following the eruption which lead to the sinking of cities and bridges.

Authorship

Despite the name Vico appearing on the map, the plate is not attributed to him. Scholarship has disagreed on the true authorship, with Marcel Destombes assigning the typography Salamanca. Giovanni Bertoni disagrees, suggesting that this instead comes from the studio of Tommaso Barlacchi. The sculptor's signature G.A. appears in the lower left.

States

Bifolco and Ronca note two states:

1. Without the editorial date.
2. With the signature of Petri de Nobilibus ormis.

The second state appeared much later than the first (c. 1585), published after Petri de Nobilibus had acquired the plate from Lafreri, who himself acquired the plate from an unknown source.

Rarity

This map is rare on the market. The last example we note sold at Sotheby's over twenty years ago.

Detailed Condition: