



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

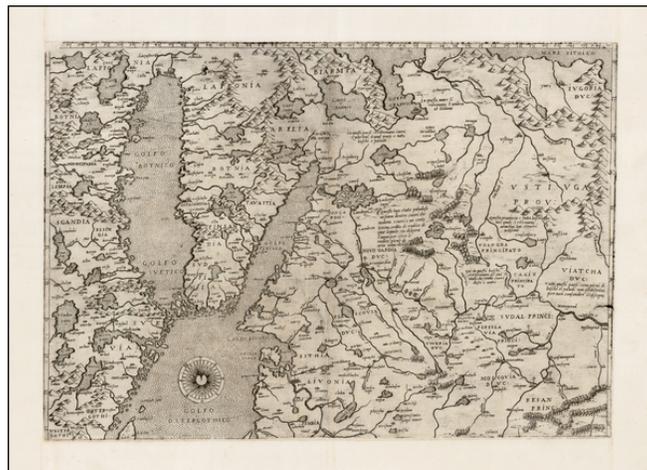
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[Russia, Sweden, Finland, Estonia Latvia and Lithuania].

Stock#: 36638
Map Maker: Gastaldi
Date: 1562
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 21.5 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A fine wide margined example of the northern sheet of the first edition of Gastaldi's 2-sheet map covering Russia, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, published in Venice in 1562.

The present offering is the northern sheet only (of 2) of Gastaldi's *Desegno de Geographia Moderna Del Regno di Polonia, e parte Del Ducado di Moscovia*. It embraces all of eastern Sweden (north of Gotland), the entire Gulf of Bothnia, the vast majority of Finland, and much of Northwestern Russia, as well as Estonia, Latvia, and the northern parts of Lithuania. The map's southern sheet extended to include Poland and much of the Ukraine down to and including Crimea, please see: [{{ inventory_detail_link\('32237'\) }}](#)

The present northern sheet is nevertheless an extremely important map for Russia, Finland, Sweden and the Baltic Countries. It is the earliest Lafreri School map to focus on the region and among the earliest obtainable maps to depict modern cartographic details, rather than simply relying upon Ptolemy either entirely or as the major basis for the geographical content.

The geography of this map was largely derived from Gerhard Mercator's 1554 map of Europe, but also takes account of some other advanced sources. The detail with respect to the shorelines of Scandinavia and the lake and river systems of Russia is impressive.

The mapping of Russia extends to include Moscow, labelled here as 'Moscovia', in the lower right. Moscow was by this time the capital of an expanding Russian state, having risen to prominence following Ivan III's victory over the Tatars in 1480. The map also features Novgorod, Russia's most historically significant city and the former capital of the Novgorod Republic (which was annexed by the Duchy of Moscow in 1478). The coverage includes the Upper Volga Basin, and depicts many lakes such as Lake Ladoga (located to the



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east of modern St. Petersburg), while the White Sea appears in the upper right.

With respect to Scandinavia, the mapping of the Swedish Baltic coastline is very advanced, being far more accurate than that depicted on Olaus Magnus's *Carta Marina* (1539) and Michele Tramezzini's map of North Europe (1558). Stockholm is labeled as 'Stoch Holm', while the great university town of Uppsala is labeled as 'Upsael'. In Finland, the traditional capital Turku is labeled as 'Abog' (a variant of its Swedish name, Abo). The Gulf of Finland takes on an archaic form, angling sharply towards the northeast, with its head dominated by the old fortified port of Vyborg (in Finnish, Viipuri). Now part of Russia, this town would long be fought over between Sweden and Russia.

In the Baltic countries, the modern Estonian capital, Tallinn, appears under its old name, 'Revel', while to the south is Riga, the capital of Latvia (labeled here as 'Livinia'). The map extends further south to include northern Lithuania, notably the port of 'Memel' (now Klaipeda).

Gastaldi's fine map proved to be influential, and was reissued by Paolo Forlani in 1568, with its own title on the northern sheet.

Giacomo Gastaldi (c. 1500-66) was the first of a number of Italian mapmakers, mostly active in Rome and Venice, who were responsible for the production of the first widely distributed modern maps of all parts of the World (although primarily focusing on Italy). The maps were issued separately, but were also assembled both by booksellers and early owners into bound composite atlases. These maps have come to be known as Lafreri maps, because in the 1570s, the bookseller and publisher Antonio Lafreri of Rome produced such composite atlases, in which he included a title page with his name as the publisher. While there are a number of surviving examples of these Lafreri Atlases in institutions, these compilations are very rare and no two examples have identical contents.

Gastaldi's map is extremely rare on the market. AMPR references only a single example of the 1562 Gastaldi 2-sheet map at auction or in a dealer catalog in the past 30 years (Christies Paris, June 9, 2006), and no examples of the southern or northern sheet (although several examples of the separate sheets from the 1568 Forlani edition are noted as having appeared on the market in the past 30 years).

The present example is in remarkably good condition for such a rare survival.

Detailed Condition:

Minor repairs along centerfold. Original margins extended as is normally the case for Lafreri maps.