



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Universale Descrittione Di Tutta La Terra Conosciuta Fin Qui . . . 1565

Stock#: 103461
Map Maker: Forlani

Date: 1565
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 30.5 x 17.5 inches (if joined)

Price: SOLD



Description:

An excellent example of Paolo Forlani's third map of the world, which Forlani derived from Giacomo Gastaldi's 1546 prototype world map and Forlani's earlier world map of 1560. The present example is state 2 of the map, which bears the imprint of Forlani and Fernando Bertelli and the date of 1565.

Between 1560 and 1570, Forlani issued four world maps, this version being the most majestic. As with Forlani's earlier world maps, this edition is a re-interpretation of Gastaldi, however a significant addition has been made: a large and extensive southern continent is shown and labeled "Terra Incognita". Forlani has populated the unknown southern land mass with imaginary topographical features as well as unlikely animals - among them a camel, an elephant, a lion, a rhinoceros and most outlandish, a griffin and a unicorn.

By 1565, Forlani's maps of northern North America included the label "Nueva Franza" to recognize the growing French role in exploring what was still a little-known continent. Despite Gastaldi pioneering the idea of separate Asian and American continents with the addition of the Strait of Anian in 1562, Forlani disregards this advance. North America is still shown joined to Asia, but many of the eastern coastal features compare well with modern maps; proof that Forlani was skilled at incorporating the latest knowledge about North America's shape from existing charts and explorers' descriptions. Florida and Cuba, for example, are quite accurately positioned.

Forlani's large world map was published in 1565, the year before Venice would reach what David Woodward calls the "zenith of map engraving". The map is highly decorative, featuring two cherubs in the top corners blowing the winds. In the lower corners are lines of text, including a dedication to Bartolomeo Zacco. Other embellishments include: numerous sea monsters, a nude figure riding a large sea creature, nine sailing vessels, and varied land animals. Forlani's fanciful style made him one of the most popular



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Italian cartographers of the 16th Century.

The significance of this Forlani map is indicated by its designation as "remarkable" in Frederick Muller's classic work on cartography, *Remarkable Maps of the 15th, 16th and 17th Centuries* (Amsterdam, 1897).

At the bottom, left, the text translates as follows:

The way to find the distance in miles between two places on this division of the World If you wish to find the distance between two places that are located on this universal map, you will place one leg of the compass at one of the places, and stretch the other leg to the other place, and without tightening or loosening the compass you will place it so open on the map's equator; then you will count how many degrees of the circle are between one leg of the compass and the other, and that number of degrees you will multiply by 60, and what will result will be the Italian miles between those two places, noting that this distance is taken for the obliquity as for the direct line and nothing more is considered. Here no example is necessary if what has been said is understood.

The map is dedicated to 16th Century Padoan poet Bartolemeo Zacco.

A superb example of this cartographic landmark.

Detailed Condition:

Two sheets, unjoined as issued. Full original margins.