



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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La Nuova Francia

Stock#: 19429
Map Maker: Ramusio / Gastaldi
Date: 1556 (1606)
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The first printed map devoted to New England and New France, showing the eastern seaboard from New York Bay to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The map is the first to use the name New France and one of the earliest to delineate New York Harbor and Manhattan with any accuracy. It has been called the best surviving early map to illustrate Verrazano's discovery of New York Harbor. (Cohen & Augustyn). The map is based on the voyages of Giovanni da Verrazano in 1524 and Jacques Cartier in 1534. Verrazano sailed up the eastern coast discovering New York Harbor on the way, with this monumental event graphically depicted on the map.

New York Harbor is delineated in the low left, with Manhattan pictured as a peninsula named Angoulesme. This name, which Verrazano bestowed on his discovery, refers to Francis I's title before he became king. This name never was picked up for general usage and soon disappeared from maps. From New York, Verrazano continued further north, visiting Newport Bay, here called Port Real, and Narragansett Bay, named as Port du Refuge. Verrazano skirted the New England coast further north, which is why the map is missing the familiar shape of Cape Cod and also the reason that the distance between the bays of southern New England and the islands around the Gulf of St. Lawrence is so foreshortened. The northern region around the St. Lawrence is based on Cartier's voyage. Terra Nuova (Newfoundland) is shown as comprised of several islands and the St. Lawrence River is depicted running west from the Gulf, eventually meeting with the Hudson River north of Angouleme. This may reflect a mixed up belief that Cartier and Verrazano met while exploring these rivers.

The map is the first cartographic depiction of the northeast by itself and it is based on the earliest



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explorations in the region. A nice example of the 1606 edition of the map, which can be distinguished from earlier editions by the pagination at the top left and right.

Detailed Condition: