



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## [Untitled Map of Mexico City]

**Stock#:** 22786  
**Map Maker:** Ramusio  
**Date:** 1556 (1600)  
**Place:** Padua  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 11 x 7 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Rare and important early plan of Mexico City from Ramusio's *Navigazione et viaggi*.

With the exception of the image of Santo Domingo which accompanied Columbus' first letter, the earliest plan of any city in America is the Cortes map of Tenochtitlan (Mexico City), which first appeared in 1524. Variant editions of the plan appeared in Bordone's *Isolario*, Munster's *Cosmographia*, Ramusio's *Navigazione et viaggi*, and Antoine du Pinet's *Plantz, pourtraitz et descriptions de plusiueres villes et fortresses*.

Mexico City was founded by the Mexica (Aztecs) in 1325. The city was the called Tenochtitlan. The Mexica



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were one of the last indigenous people to migrate to this part of the Valley of Mexico after the fall of the Toltec Empire. While their arrival was not initially welcomed, the Mexica were able to establish a city on a small island on the western side of Lake Texcoco. Mexica legend tells a story of how Huitzilopochtli, their principal god, identified the location of the city through an eagle perched on a nopal cactus with a snake in its beak. By the time the Spanish arrived in Mexico, Tenochtitlan had come to dominate the other city-states around Lake Texcoco, and in the Valley of Mexico.

The view depicted by Ramusio is the oldest European image of the City, which is still very much dominated by the Lake which gave it its initial geographical advantages.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor tonin.