



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

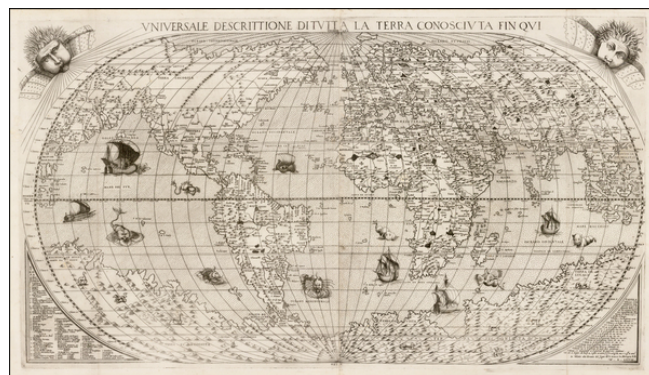
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Universale Descrittione Di Tutta la Terra Conosciuta Fin Qui

Stock#: 40565
Map Maker: Bertelli
Date: 1568
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 30 x 16.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of Donato Bertelli's spectacular 2 sheet map of the world, published in Venice in 1568.

Generally considered to be the rarest of the so-called Forlani series of World maps, Donato Bertelli's map is drawn from Paolo Forlani's World map of 1565 (Forlani 3), which in turn is based upon Giacomo Gastaldi's 1546 prototype world map and Forlani's earlier world map of 1560. The map is extremely rare, with only the British Library example cited by Shirley, to which Tooley added an example in the Beans-Lloyd-Triestino Atlas and Woodward further located an example at the John Carter Brown. Unlike the other 4 world maps which have been definitively attributed to Forlani, the modern consensus is that this map is the original work of Donato Bertelli, whose initials appear in the title cartouche.

Between 1560 and 1570, Paolo Forlani issued four world maps, with his 1565 map (Forlani 3) being the largest and the most decorative of the sequence. As with Forlani's earlier world maps, Forlani 3 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. This feature is faithfully copied by Bertelli.

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, both Bertelli and Forlani disregard this advance. North America is still shown joined to Asia, separated by the "Golfo di Tonzo," with Japan at its center. Many of the eastern coastal features compare well with modern maps; reflecting the incorporation of the latest knowledge about North America's shape from existing charts and explorers' descriptions. Florida and Cuba, for example, are quite accurately positioned.



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Bertelli's large world map was published in 1568, two years after 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. Other embellishments include: numerous sea monsters, a nude figure riding a large sea creature, nine sailing vessels, and varied land animals.

The present example is in exceptional condition, having last been offered for sale by Sothebys on May 9, 2012, Lot 132 (this copy).

Detailed Condition:

Two sheets, joined. Fine wide margined example.