



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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**[Portolan Chart of Europe and the Mediterranean] . . . la carta del navigare . . . la  
descrittione dell'Europe et parte dell' Africa, et dell' Asia, secondo l'uso de navigati de.  
S. Giacomo. Homem portuguese . . . M.D.L XIX**

**Stock#:** 91522  
**Map Maker:** Forlani / Homem  
**Date:** 1569  
**Place:** Venice  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 32.5 x 19.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

***The First Printed Portolan Chart of the Mediterranean, Drawn from the Work of an Important Portuguese Family of Portolan Chart Makers***

One of the rarest charts of the sixteenth century, and the first printed portolan chart. It is based on the work of Diogo Homan and has been masterfully restored.

Forlani's work marks the first transition of the portolan from manuscript to copperplate printing. Indeed, a crack in the plate is visible in the lower center of the print.

The chart shows the Mediterranean and contiguous areas, from the Canaries and Ireland to the Black Sea.

The chart is criss-crossed by rhumb lines, one of the genre's defining features. The Mediterranean is minutely rendered, with place names radiating inland, the better to see the stippled waters for navigation.

The dedication in the far northern lands bears the name of Giacomo Murari, a Venetian nobleman to whom Forlani dedicated several of his works.

This chart is based on the work of Diogo Homem, who made a series of portolan charts in the 1550s and 1560s. The son of Lopo Homem, who also was a chartmaker, Diogo had to flee Portugal under suspicion of having committed a murder. He went first to England and then Venice, where he interacted with Forlani. It was also there where he produced his [many fine manuscript charts](#).

This chart marks a fascinating moment in hydrographic history. While portolan-style charts continued to



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be made in manuscript well in the seventeenth century, the sea chart more generally, which evolved in style and content, became a primarily printed object in the late-sixteenth century. This was spurred in large part by the publication, two decades after this chart appeared, of Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer's pioneering printed sea atlas.

**Detailed Condition:**

Restored, with left side of image and bottom portion of the printed image reinstated in facsimile, as is the lower center compass rose.