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Carta seconda Generale del America

Stock#: 27892
Map Maker: Dudley
Date: 1646
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 18 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

First state of Robert Dudley's general chart of the East Coast of North America, the first obtainable printed sea chart to focus on North America.

Dudley's chart of the east Coast of North America is one of two charts relating to North America to have appeared in 1646. As such, it predates the regional maps which appeared in later volumes. The map extends from Cape Canaveral to Nova Scotia and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The map is the first English sea chart of North America and the first to show soundings. The map shows several of the harbors visited by Champlain in 1613. New Virginia and Old Virginia are shown, with both the Outer Banks and the Chesapeake treated in nice detail.

The Soundings in the Chesapeake the first recorded soundings in this harbor and do not appear in the more regional map published in 1647. The York River appears for the first time on a printed map. There is no sign of the Dutch presence near New York City. The R. Hudson is named, using the English name and not the Dutch name (Noort River). The detail around New York City is excellent for the period.



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The St. Lawrence extends west to Quiboc. A compass variation is recorded off Cape Cod.

The chart appeared in Dudley's *Arcano del Mare*, one of the rarest and most highly sought after sea atlases of the 17th Century. Dudley, an Englishman, produced this exquisite work while living in Florence. Dudley, who was believed to have received some of his information directly from Sir Francis Drake, labored for decades before finally releasing the first edition of this work when he was 73 years old. Dudley's atlas is of the utmost importance, being the first Sea Atlas published by an Englishman and the first Sea Atlas to treat the entire world (not just Europe). It is also the first atlas to utilize the Mercator Projection on a uniform basis and included significant advances in "Great Circle" navigation (shortest circle around the Globe). Its inclusion of winds and currents was also a monumental first. Completed in Manuscript form in 1636, it is among the most important works in the history of European Cartography.

Robert Dudley (1574 - 1649) was the illegitimate son of Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester. In 1594, Dudley led an expedition to the West Indies, of which he wrote an account. In 1605, he tried unsuccessfully to establish his legitimacy in court. After that he left England and converted to Catholicism, taking up residence in Florence where he served the Grand Dukes of Tuscany in their efforts to rid the Mediterranean of Piracy. There he worked as a noted shipbuilder and designed and published *Dell'Arcano del Mare*, the first maritime atlas to cover the whole world. He was also a skilled navigator, mathematician and engineer. In Italy, he styled himself Earl of Warwick and Leicester as well as Duke of Northumberland. He was a friend of Sir Francis Drake and relative of Thomas Cavendish, both of whom corresponded with Dudley and likely supplied some of the information for his Atlas.

Detailed Condition:

Minor discoloration along fold, mostly showing through from the guard.