



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

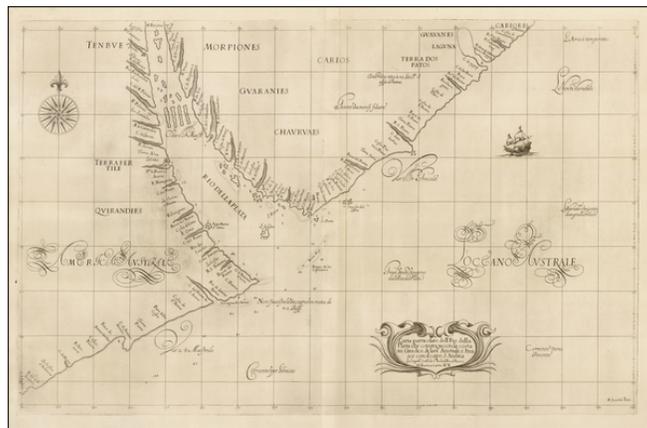
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Carta Particolare dell'Rio della Plata che Comincia con la Costa in Gradi 31 di Latine. Australe, e Finisce con il Capo S: Andrea . . .

Stock#: 40824
Map Maker: Dudley
Date: 1646
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of the first state of Robert Dudley's chart of the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, extending north to Uruguay, the earliest obtainable chart of the region.

The chart is centered on the Rio de la Plata and names Buenos Aires.

Dudley's chart is by far the largest scale treatment of this section of coastline, giving Dudley license to make up many of the place names. It has been suggested that Dudley's friendship with Sir Francis Drake gave him access to Drake's papers, although there is no evidence to substantiate this claim, nor the claim that Thomas Cavendish may have supplied seized charts from the Spanish. More likely, Dudley relied on the manuscript charts of John Daniell, a Thames School chartmaker, whose charts were then available at the Biblioteca Nazionale in Florence, although it is most likely that Dudley brought the Daniell charts to Florence.

As noted by Parry in *Printing & The Mind of Man*, "In the genre of sea charts it is Sir Robert Dudley (1573-1649) who made the greatest impression among the English cartographers of the seventeenth century, particularly in his charting of the East Indian archipelago . . . the first atlas to contain detailed charts of the whole East Indian and Philippine archipelagoes."

According to Suarez, Dudley's interest in the Far East began in his youth, and he backed Benjamin Wood's 1596 expedition to Southeast Asia which ended in a shipwreck on the Burmese coast. "A man of enormous talents, ranging from adventurer and explorer to scientist, mathematician, naval architect, navigator and cartographer," Dudley was the illegitimate son of the Earl of Leicester, the favorite of Elizabeth I and brother-in-law to Thomas Cavendish. In 1594 Dudley sailed with Sir Francis Drake to Guiana and Trinidad



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in search of El Dorado and two years later received a knighthood for his part in the Earl of Essex's raid on Cadiz.

Dudley eventually settled in Florence and in a naval capacity entered the service of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany. Dudley's *Arcano del Mare* was the first nautical atlas published by an Englishman and one of the most ambitious and beautiful cartographic works ever produced. The plates were engraved by Antonio Lucini, who claimed that twelve years and 5,000 pounds of copper were expended in the preparation of the plates. The resulting charts are among the most distinctive productions of early cartography.

Gorgeous compass rose and several ships.

Detailed Condition: