



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Il Famosa Ponte di Rialto in Venetia

Stock#: 46572
Map Maker: Scolari
Date: 1630 circa
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare view of the Rialto Bridge, one of the most famous bridges in Venice.

The Rialto Bridge is one of the earliest bridges in Venice. The first dry crossing of the Grand Canal was a pontoon bridge built in 1181 by Nicolò Barattieri. It was called the Ponte della Moneta, presumably because of the mint that stood near its eastern entrance.

The growth of the Rialto market on the eastern bank increased traffic on the floating bridge, so it was replaced in 1255 by a wooden bridge. This structure had two inclined ramps meeting at a movable central section, that could be raised to allow the passage of tall ships. The connection with the market eventually led to a change of name for the bridge. During the first half of the 15th century, two rows of shops were built along the sides of the bridge. The rents brought an income to the State Treasury, which helped maintain the bridge.

The bridge was partly burned in the revolt led by Bajamonte Tiepolo in 1310. In 1444, it collapsed under the weight of a crowd watching a boat parade and it collapsed again in 1524.

Reconstruction of the bridge in stone was first proposed in 1503. In 1551, plans were again offered by famous architects, such as Jacopo Sansovino, Palladio and Vignola, but all involved a Classical approach with several arches, which was judged inappropriate to the situation. Michelangelo also was considered as designer of the bridge.

The present stone bridge, a single span designed by Antonio da Ponte, was finally completed in 1591. It is



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similar to the wooden bridge it succeeded. Two inclined ramps lead up to a central portico. On either side of the portico, the covered ramps carry rows of shops. The engineering of the bridge was considered so audacious that architect Vincenzo Scamozzi predicted future ruin.

Stefano Scolari (1598-1650) was a little-known publisher, who worked primarily in Venice.

Only a single example of this view is known, in the British Library.

Detailed Condition: