



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[Florida, Texas & Gulf Coast] Carta particolare della Baia di Messico con la costa . . .

Stock#: 55740
Map Maker: Dudley
Date: 1646
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Earliest Obtainable Sea Chart of the Gulf of Mexico

Fine dark impression of first state of Robert Dudley's important chart of the Gulf Coast, from Florida to the Yucatan and Texas, published in Venice in 1646.

The present example is noteworthy for the numerous extra horizontal lines, a result of its being a very early impression, with the plate not perfectly cleaned, thereby providing very impressive extra shading, adding extra visual depth to the printed image.

Dudley's work is a remarkable compilation of information, showing the direction of soundings in certain sections of the map, currents, shallow regions, shoals, and other sailing information. Constructed on Mercator's Projection, this remarkable sea chart was the earliest printed chart of the region.

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,



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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: