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Carta Particolare dello Stretto di Magellano e di Maire

Stock#: 56665
Map Maker: Dudley

Date: 1646
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29.5 x 19 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Dudley's Remarkable Early Sea Chart of the Strait of Magellan and Tierra del Fuego

Important early chart of the Strait of Magellan and the Strait of Le Maire, the latter of which was first discovered by Jacob Le Maire and Willem Schouten only thirty years prior to the publication of the first edition of this map by Dudley in 1646.

The chart shows the entirety of Tierra del Fuego, shown as one large island with tiny islets dominating the southern shores of the western side of the Strait. These islands are marked as unknown for the most part.

Place names circle Tierra del Fuego, stemming from Schouten and Le Maire's voyage and from that of the Nodales brothers, who Spain sent to reconnoiter the area after news of the Dutch voyage circulated more broadly. The Dutch were in search of an alternative entrance to the Pacific, as the Strait was supposedly under the charter of the Dutch East India Company.

Dudley has included sounding depths and outlines of sandbars, as well as notes on magnetic declination and sailing directions, including the best times to sail the Strait, underlining the erudite fashion in which his sea atlas was made. However, some myths linger, including the mention of giants. This legend stemmed from reports of large footprints seen by Magellan's men on the first circumnavigation (1518-1522). Europeans would continue to look for evidence of gigantism until the late-eighteenth century.

The chart provides remarkable detail, including information which would have come to Dudley relatively shortly after Le Maire and Schouten's voyage became publicly known. The map retains the elusive Southern Continent, which is shown in the lower left portion of the map, based upon a description provided by Sir Francis Drake. Drake had been blown far south upon exiting the western entrance to the

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Strait and supposedly spotted land in the higher latitudes. Dudley had known Drake personally, and had also corresponded with Thomas Cavendish, another English circumnavigator with experience of the Strait, as he was related to him by marriage.

This chart appeared in Dudley's hugely influential *Arcano del Mare*, the creation of which is outlined in the biography below. This is an outstanding chart for its early date, showing one of the most strategic waterways in the world, and completed in Dudley's characteristic graceful style.

Detailed Condition: