



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

### [Eastern Mediterranean]

**Stock#:** 59510sb  
**Map Maker:** Anonymous / Scolari  
**Date:** 1650 circa  
**Place:** Venice  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 20.5 x 13.6 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### ***The Only Surviving Example of the Third State of this Lafreri Rarity.***

A rare example of the late third state of this fantastic Lafreri School map, first issued prior to 1572 by an anonymous printer and here reprinted by Stefano Scolari in the 17th century. This map forms the southeastern sheet of a four-sheet map of Europe of which the southwestern sheet has never been found.

The map shows the Eastern Mediterranean in marvelous style. The map centers around Greece and the Aegean Islands, showing a blocky and elegantly elongated Hellenic Peninsula. Stretching out from land to sea between the Balkans and Candia (Crete), lakes, mountains, rivers, and hills dot the area. Further east is Anatolia and the Holy Land, with "Arabia Petra" covered in stones. Egypt contains a number of lakes and forests scattered throughout. The easternmost tip of Calabria and Sicily are visible, the latter labeled only "IA," a tantalizing sign of the southwestern sheet of the map, which is now unknown.

The decorative elements on this map are remarkable, with extravagantly large sailing ships and sea monsters. Off the coast of Cyprus, a "Vacca Marina" (sea cow) is shown, one of the rarer sea monsters to appear on maps. These sea cows are described in Medieval bestiaries including the 1491 *Hortus Sanitatis*, although depictions showing these creatures are uncommon on maps. One of the few other maps to include a sea cow as such is the fantastic *Carta marina et descriptio septentrionalium terrarum ac mirabilium* 9-sheet map of northwestern Europe published by Olaus Magnus.

The sources which were used in the making of this map are uncertain, with Bifulco and Ronca avoiding making any claims on the lineage of the map. However, Almagia suggests that the map is a derivative of the 1560 Gastaldi *Geographia particolare d'una gran parte dell'Europa*.



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### **States**

The map exists in three states. The second and third states are known only from the southeastern sheets. The states can be identified as follows:

1. No editorial dating. Identifiable as pre-1572 from the Venician St. Mark's Lion appearing on Cyprus. Anonymous.
2. In the lower margin, *Valeggio formis* imprint appears. Francesco Valeggio's period of activity was between 1598 and 1627.
3. In the lower margin, the imprint *Stefano Scolari formis in Venetia a S. zulian*. Scolari's period of activity was between 1644 and 1687.

### **Rarity**

This is the only known example of the third state of the map. The second state is known in one example of the southeastern sheet in a private Athenian collection. The first state is known in two examples, one example in three sheets (lacking the southwestern sheet) in Bergamo, and a second example in only the southeastern sheet in the Vatican Library.

### **Detailed Condition:**

Fine wide margins. Manuscript 142 in upper right corner.