



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Carta particolare dell'mare del Zur che comincia con il capo Lucar e finisce con Cadgios nella nuova Spagna e La Baia di Honduras . . .

Stock#: 60075
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 Coast of Central America

Nice example of Robert Dudley's rare sea chart extending on the Pacific side from Southern Mexico to Nicoragua and on the Caribbean side, covering the Bay of Honduras and Costa di Truxillo.

Dudley's *Arcano del Mare* (Mystery of the Sea) is one of the most important atlases ever produced and one of the most complex. It is the first sea-atlas of the whole world; the first with all the charts constructed using Mercator's new projection, as corrected by Edward Wright; the first to give magnetic declination; the first to give prevailing winds and currents; the first to expound the advantages of Great Circle Sailing; and the first sea-atlas to be compiled by an Englishman, albeit abroad in Italy.

Dudley broke completely with the contemporary style of charts. He showed lines of latitude and longitude and omitted all compass lines. In doing so, his purpose was more intellectual than practical: techniques for determining longitude at sea were not refined until more than two centuries later. The maps are by English and other pilots and it is generally accepted that the work was both scientific and accurate for the time. Dudley used the original charts of Henry Hudson, and for the Pacific Coast of America used Cavendish's observations.

When the first edition appeared, Dudley was seventy-three years old. The *Arcano del Mare* was a monumental and totally original task, the charts, representations of instruments and diagrams all engraved on huge quantities of copper over many years with an exactitude incorporating the minutest detail and printed on the best possible paper. Antonio Francesco Lucini, the engraver, was born in Florence c. 1610. Before being employed by Sir Robert Dudley, he had already published engraved views



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of Florence and scenes of the Turkish Wars. Lucini put the stamp of his personality on the finished work as well as did the author; the delicacy and strength of the engraving, the embellishments of the lettering alla cancellaresca, make it a true example of Italian Baroque art. In a printed introductory leaf found in one copy in the British Library, Lucini states that he worked on the plates in seclusion for twelve years in an obscure Tuscan village, using up to no less than 5,000 lbs (2,268 kg) of copper. According to the engraver, the Arcano del Mare took forty years to prepare and twelve to execute.

An essential map for Central American Collectors.

Detailed Condition: