



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Isola della Sicilia. Descrizione della Sicilia con le sue isole

**Stock#:** 75108  
**Map Maker:** Gastaldi  
**Date:** 1545  
**Place:** Venice  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 21.5 x 15 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

***The First Printed Regional Map of Italy, and the First Separately-Issued Map of Sicily. One of Gastaldi's Earliest Creations.***

Superlative map of Sicily, being the first map of the island and a fine early work of the great Lafreri School cartographer Giacomo Gastaldi. The map was published in 1545 at his Venetian publishing house and represents a compendium of Ptolemaic and modern sources.

Highly decorative, the stylistic tendencies are distinct of the early Lafreri School and would be changed with later publications. The sea shows a rippled texture, rather than the more common stippled pattern. Hills are slightly less rounded and they are shaded. Finally, the cities shown are very Medieval. Notice, particularly, "La falconara" tower in the center of the south coast. Also, note Etna (M. Gibello) in firey eruption.

The map represents a cartographic achievement, as Bifulco and Ronca term it the first regional map produced in Italy. Famoso refers to the map as "a turning point for Sicily's representations. . . the cornerstone of Sicilian cartography." It is believed (according to Almagia and others) that Gastaldi collaborated on the project with Francesco Maurolico, a Sicilian mathematician who would produce a *Descrittione dell'isola di Sicilia* in 1546, also in Venice. The distances and toponyms are likely drawn from Maurolico.

The island is divided into three regions: the Val de Noto, Val de Mona, and the Val de Mazzara. Note that these are not "valles" (valleys), but vallos, subdivisions of the island carried over from the Arabic and Norman epoch of the island.



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In all a great map of Sicily, one that would serve as the basis for future maps for over a century. Tooley refers to it as the biggest Lafreri School map of the island.

**Detailed Condition:**

Trimmed to neatline with toning around edges. Several printer's creases in right of image.