



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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**[Toscana / Tuscany] En, candidi lectores, elegantioris Italiae partis, Tusciae scilicet, topographiam. aenis nris formis excussam in hac Tabella vobis denuo damus, atque ita quidem absolute, ut nihil amplius, in ea desiderari possit, praesertim quod, cum adiacentibus Umbriae, Aemiliae, Lombardiae, & Liguriae partibus ad unguem fuerit effigiata . . .**

**Stock#:** 75549  
**Map Maker:** Bellarmato / Salamanca  
**Date:** 1557 circa  
**Place:** Rome  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 22.1 x 16.3 inches  
**Price:** \$ 8,500.00



## Description:

### ***Important Early Map of Tuscany***

Rare example of one of the first recorded issues of Girolamo Bellarmato's *Chorographia Tusciae*, originally created in 1536. The original no longer survives, but a later state, dated 1554, is known to survive in a single example.

The map including the islands of Elba, Giglio, Giannutri and part of Corsica, and covering the whole of Tuscany, part of Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia, Umbria, and south as far as Rome. The map shows armies and a fortress near Siena.

The map is derived from the large four-sheet woodcut map by the Sieneese military architect Girolamo Bellarmato, for which one known example is known to survive. Salamanca improved upon Bellarmato's work, in particular making important geo-physical corrections, as well as redrawing the coastline. Armies have been added to the plate and can be seen around Siena, but were deleted in later issues of the map. The map is also no longer in a trapezoidal shape and the coverage extends further to the west and to the north.

Bifolco notes that the map was issued prior to 1558, the year Salamanca became partners with Lafreri.



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Bellarmato conducted an early survey of Tuscany, made by traveling on horseback, which was completed in 1536. In describing the original Bellarmato map, Leonardo Rombai notes:

*Though it may reflect some wishful thinking in its exaggeration of the area between Magra and the Tiber in a period when the Medici were hurriedly pushing to establish a regional state, [Bellarmato's] map is the result of direct observations, notations, and measurements taken while traveling on horseback over the greater part of the area. Drawn to a scale of approximately 1:325,000, the map abounds in place-names, roads, and bridges. The size of the town symbols varies with the number of inhabitants (information useful for military billeting and conscription), and special attention is focused on fortified centers. Bellarmato's dedication to the Medici condottiere Valerio Orsini leaves no doubt that the map was intended as a tool of military planning.*

**Rarity**

Bellarmato's original map survives in a single example, printed in 1554. This is one of several early single sheet copies of the map, all of which are very rare on the market.

The map is extremely rare, with only a few known surviving examples.

**Provenance:** Christies, May 19, 1998.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor dampstaining. Margins extended in the style of Lafreri maps.