



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

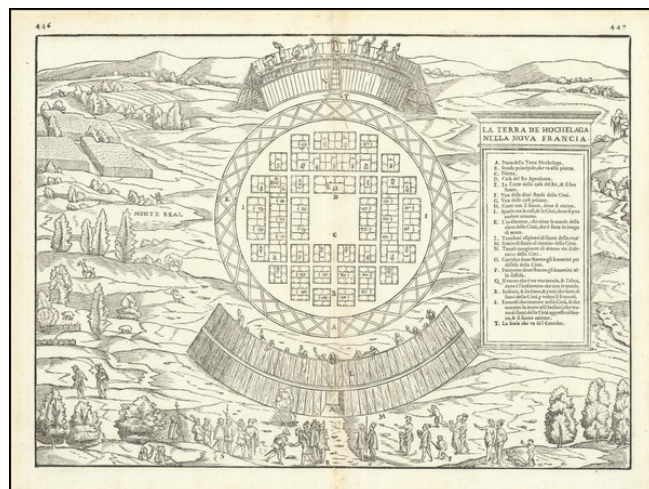
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Montreal) La Terra De Hochelaga Nella Nova Francia

Stock#: 87208
Map Maker: Ramusio
Date: 1556
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 14.5 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First North American City Plan and the First Appearance of Montreal on a Printed Map (Kershaw)

Fine example of Ramusio's map of Montreal, the first printed plan of a town in North America.

Jacques Cartier, the great French explorer, visited the village of Hochelaga on the island of Montreal in 1535. The village was near a mountain the explorer named Mount Royal or Monte Real. His account was published in the third volume of Ramusio's *Delle navigationi et viaggi* in 1556.

The map includes many of the village's features as described by Cartier. The mythical large welcome is depicted in the clasping of hands by a Frenchman (presumably Cartier) and a native chief, and the advantage of two-story fortifications is demonstrated. The lodges within the fort are exceedingly symmetrical, but with each family unit indicated by a fire, they were probably intended to indicate that they were both single-family and multiple-family or extended family dwellings.

It is not clear who the Hochelagans were, although most likely either Huron or Iriquois. The village was gone by the time Champlain arrived.

Ramusio was the first to publish this map, which was copied by later authors in other editions.

States and Editions of the Map

There are two editions of the map. The first edition was published a single state in 1556, identifiable by



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the transparency of the smoke in the fire in front of the village and the more rounded nature of the trees. This plate was subsequently destroyed in a fire.

The second edition exists in two states, one published in 1565 and one in 1606. The first state has page numbers 446 and 446. In the second state, the page numbers are changed to 380 2 and 380 3. This second state of the second edition is accompanied by wormwood damage.

Detailed Condition:

Nice, dark impression. Minor fold toning and wearing of paper, overall VG to VG+.