



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Flandria, Brabantia, et Holanda Nuova

Stock#: 94269
Map Maker: Ruscelli
Date: 1574
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10 x 7.5 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

This 1574 copperplate map by Girolamo Ruscelli is focused on the Low Countries, encompassing present-day Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, while also extending into southeast England. As one of the earliest modern maps of the region, it stands as a significant piece in the evolution of cartography.

The 16th century was a vibrant period in the Low Countries, marked by the turmoil of the Eighty Years' War and profound shifts in trade, science, and arts. With the Low Countries at the crossroads of Europe, their geographical mapping was a matter of keen interest. Ruscelli's map, in this context, captures the detailed topography and political boundaries of the region during a transformative historical epoch, bridging the understanding between the medieval and modern era cartography.

Ruscelli's atlas was an expanded and improved iteration of Gastaldi's *Geografia* (1548), acknowledged as one of the most comprehensive atlases of the period. The importance of Ruscelli and Gastaldi's work lies in their pioneering use of copperplate engraving. This marked a significant departure from the earlier practice of woodcut printing and represented a significant advancement in cartographic precision and detail. The harder copper allowed for more intricate detailing, enabling Ruscelli to render the varied topography of the Low Countries with remarkable accuracy.

The map is notable for its precise rendering of cities, rivers, islands, and other geographic features, with meticulous attention paid to the positioning of these elements in relation to each other. The plethora of toponyms transcribed, ranging from "LONDRA" and "ISOLE DI ZILANDA" to smaller locations like "Fofdich" and "Texel", attest to Ruscelli's commitment to accuracy. The breadth of Ruscelli's work is a testament to the geographic and ethnographic knowledge of the period, with the *Geografia* constituting a



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significant contribution to the geographical understanding of the 16th century.

Detailed Condition:

Very minor toning and dampstain at the bottom edge.