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(Dalmatia / Croatia) Il vero ritratto di Zarra et di Sebenico co diligenza ridotta in questa forma a comodita de i lettori si come elle si ritrovano al presente del anno MDLXX...

Stock#: 91924
Map Maker: Rota

Date: 1570
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 25 x 14 inches

Price: \$ 12,000.00



Description:

The Rarest Lafreri Map of Dalmatia

Martino Rota's masterwork mapping of his home region (covering Zara to Sibenik), the second published map of the region, following Pagano's unobtainable map of the region, published circa 1530.

While the cartography is innovative and significant for the region, it is the decorative elements at the bottom of the map that make the work truly stand out among its Lafreri School contemporaries. In the lower right is a mass of galleys and square-rigged ships, centered on a ferociously rigged vessel complete with anchors and grappling hooks advancing upon the viewer. In the lower left is a lion (almost certainly the Lion of St. Mark, representing Venetian control over the region) defeating a dragon in battle. These decorative elements perfectly follow the style of Lafreri School cartography, but it is extremely rare to see such a focus on these elements and to see them engraved to such an impressive standard.

The cartography is based on the Pagano map but includes substantially more information, particularly in the morphology of the long, thin islands that characterize the region. Bifulco and Ronca hypothesize that Rota had access to manuscript cartographic charts from his home region. Given the extent of the corrections and the basic nature of the Pagano map in regard to coastal topography, this is likely to be the case.

The map also preserves local history, showing battles and naming local military commanders. Just outside the walled city of Zara (today Kir), the Capitano Michel Lucih and the Capitano Sladoie do battle. In 1570, Zara had just recently been refortified by the Venetians, who feared an Ottoman incursion into the area. Throughout the map, additional delightful scenes can be identified, like the twelve hill towns of the



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northeast or the Roman ruins near Briberio.

Martino Rota

The work finely displays Rota's skills as an engraver. While Rota composed a few maps and views, he primarily adapted compositions from other artists. His most famous work was an engraved issue of Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment*, and he also composed a number of important portraits of European leaders. His appreciation of subject matter and understanding of nature are eminently visible on the present map.

Rota was born in c. 1529 in Sibenik (Sibenico, to the far right of the map) and was active as an engraver in Venice, Rome, and Vienna.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare on the market. We were unable to locate any examples at auction or in dealer records.

Tooley located 5 examples in his census of Lafreri atlases.

Detailed Condition:

Copperplate engraving on 16th-century laid paper. Areas of loss expertly and nearly-invisibly reinstated in facsimile. Approximately 3" by 7" in the lower left of the image, encompassing the entirety of the image of the lion and dragon. The rightmost section of the printed image is likewise replaced in expert facsimile.