



Univrsalz, Giacomo Cosmographo In Vngetia MDCXXXVI

The large oval world map of Giacomo Gastaldi, the most influential Venetian map publisher of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was first printed in 1546. It was the prototype of a series of later world maps, including Ortelius' work in his atlas of 1570. Gastaldi here still clings to the Amer-Asian concept which he later abandoned. Maps of Gastaldi can be found in the Italian atlases of the Lafreri school, all of them extremely rare.



The *Universale* is a foundation map of any collection, however, recently it has become apparently unaccessible in the antique market for its extreme rarity and

shockingly high price (US \$ 246,455 at Sotheby's 1999 autumn auction).

*Universale* [A map of the world] Venice, 1546. 20 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 14 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. Copperplate engraving. This is the earliest world map executed by the Venetian cartographer Giacomo Castaldi, a native of Villafranca in Piedmont. It has been called one of the most important maps of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is noteworthy, moreover, as a fine example of Italian engraving. Of interest to students of historical cartography is Castaldi's delineation of the Northwest coast of America, the peninsula of California (which was later shown as an island) and the land bridge joining Asia and the continent of North America. With all its faults, this map served as a model of perfection for an entire generation.

Formerly in the collections of General von Hauslab and Prince Liechtenstein.

**Date:** 1546

**Size:** 36.5 x 53 cm

**Reference:**

Nordenskiöld, *Facsimile Atlas*, p. 114, no. 42.

Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of the World*, No. 85, plate 72.

Tooley, pp. 12-47.

Wagner, *Cartography*, vol. II, p. 278, no. 15 (and reproduction).

*World Encompassed*, #121, Plate XXXVI.

Wroth, *Cartography of the Pacific*, p. 250, no. 49; p. 156.