



Univrsalz, Giacomo Cosmographo In Vznztia M^oXXXXVI

This large oval world map of Giacomo Gastaldi, the most influential Venetian map publisher of the 16th 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.

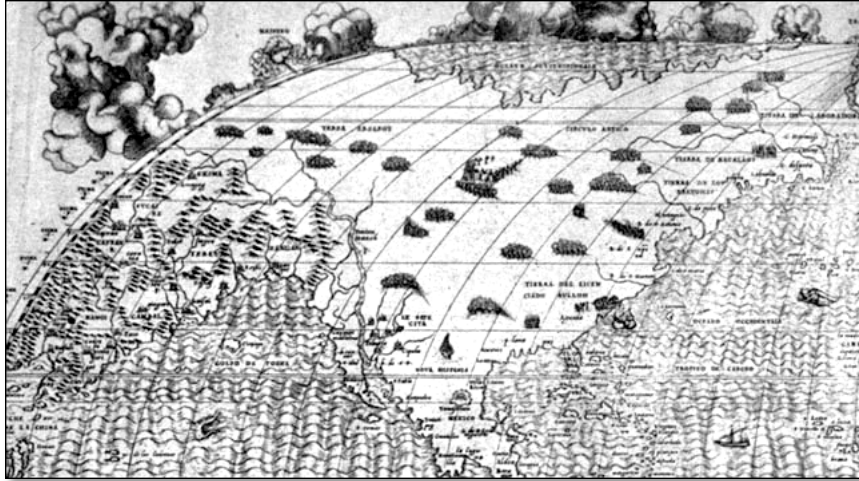
This is the earliest of the series of world maps by Italian engravers found in Italian composite atlases of the later 16th century. It is one of Gastaldi's first works and a landmark in Italian cartographic production.

The map is a neatly-executed copper engraving on an oval projection partially surrounded by clouds. The sea is patterned by wavy lines. The general impression is of a rather overcrowded work, partly because the coastlines are not sharply defined and also because in all the continents except America mountain ranges take up most of the land area.

Here Gastaldi has reverted to earlier misconceptions assuming that North America and Asia were both part of one large mass of land. The Californian peninsula is shown but the east coast is relatively poorly drawn with no obvious marking of either the Hudson River or the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In South America the Amazon is prominently depicted, but flowing almost north-south.

In spite of its imperfections Gastaldi's map was an influential prototype. It was reduced and redrawn for the Ptolemy-Gastaldi Atlas of 1548, adapted in woodcut form by Matteo Pagano in 1550 and was the source for Gerard De Jode's first world map of 1555.

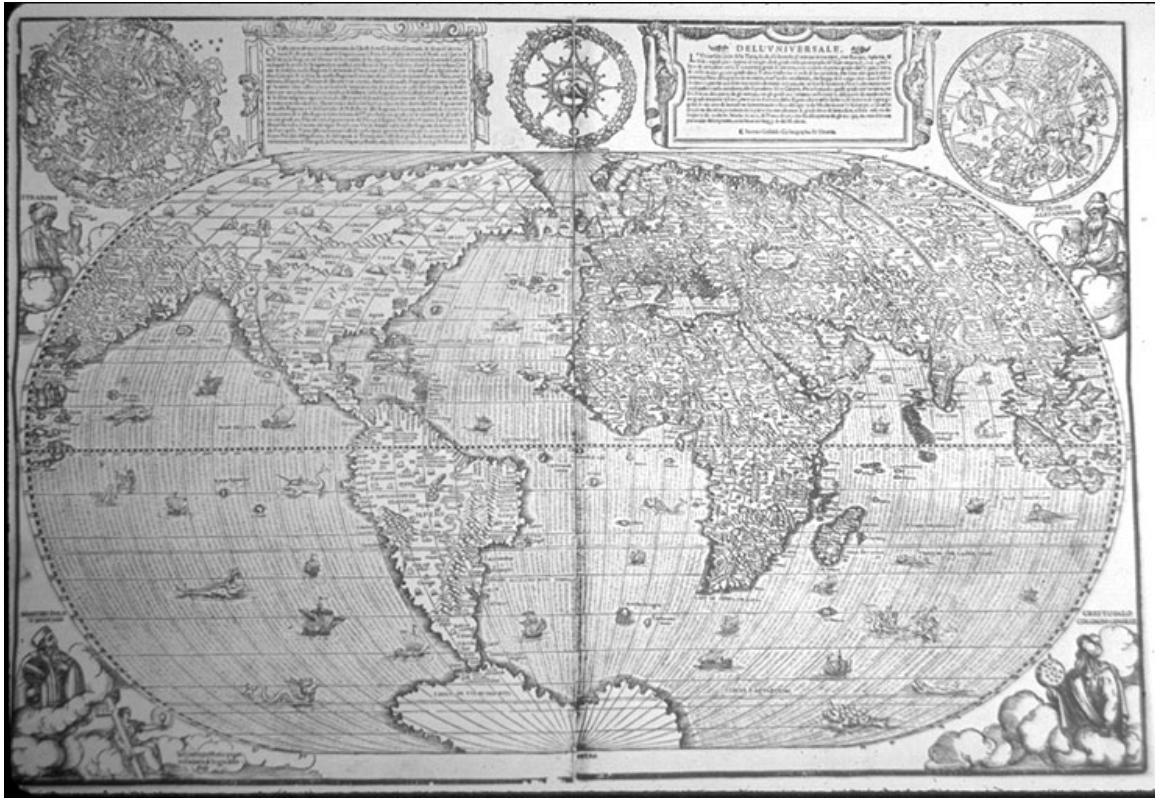
Throughout the 1560s a later generation of Italian engravers and publishers - Forlani, Camocio and Bertelli - produced a number of confusingly similar derivatives which have been preserved in composite atlases. Gastaldi's later influence can be very clearly traced in the miniature world map in Porcacchi's *L'Isole* which first appeared in 1572 and was then reprinted in various editions until the early 18th century.



The *Universale* is a foundation map of any collection, however, recently it has become apparently inaccessible in the antique market for its extreme rarity and shockingly high price (US \$ 246,455 at Sotheby's 1999 autumn auction).

The *Universale* [A map of the world] Venice, 1546. 20 ⁷/₈ x 14 ⁵/₈ in.; a copperplate engraving. It has been called one of the most important maps of the 16th century and is noteworthy, moreover, as a fine example of Italian engraving. Of interest to students of historical cartography is Gastaldi'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.



Dell'Universale world map Giacomo Gastaldi/Matteo Pagano, 1550, 51.5 x 77 cm



Detail of Gastaldi/Pagano map showing the integration of North America and Asia



*Giacomo Gastaldi's Cosmographia universale et exactissima, 1569,
below detail showing the Straits of Anian instead of the Amer-Asian integration*





*World map by Paolo Forlani, 1565,
which is strikingly similar to Gastaldi's early Amer-Asian integration*

Date: 1546-71

Size: 36.5 x 53 cm / 75 x 42 cm

References:

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

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

**The World Encompassed*, #121, Plate XXXVI.

Tooley, R.V., "Maps in Italian Atlases of the Sixteenth Century", *Imago Mundi III* (1939) pp. 12-47.

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

*Wolff, H., *America, Early Maps of the New World*, pp. 78-79, no. 97.

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

*illustrated