



### Universale Nova

**GIACOMO GASTALDI**, *Universale Nova* [from: *La Geografia di Claudio Ptolemeo Alessandrino... di Meser Iacopo Gastaldo...*] Venice, 1548.

Two years after Gastaldi's landmark map of the world of 1546 (#376), he published this much smaller version for the first compact edition of Ptolemy - the *Geographia* of 1548. The 1546 Gastaldi was the earliest in the series of world maps by Italian engravers published in LaFreri atlases and one of the most important maps of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. On both maps, North America is joined to Asia along nearly its entire length. Some years later, Gastaldi would be the first mapmaker to make separate continents of Asia and America by creating the *Straits of Anian*. North and South America are linked on the map by a narrow isthmus.

The 1546 Gastaldi is an unobtainable rarity, making this 1548 version one of the earliest obtainable examples of Italian cartography from its greatest period in map-making.

For his 1548 *Geographia*, Gastaldi produced two modern maps of the world, this map and the *Carta Marina Nova Tabula*, which was produced more in the tradition of a sea chart. Nordenskiöld believed that this map was engraved by Gastaldi himself.

The map is a simplified version of Gastaldi's map of 1546, but with the addition of six wind-heads. The map appears on an oval projection, with North America and Asia connected as one land mass. The Amazon is shown flowing North-South. The California peninsula is shown. There is little detail along the east coast of North America.

Giacomo Gastaldi is considered as the foremost Italian cartographer of the 16<sup>th</sup> century along with Paolo Forlani. Gastaldi established his reputation in Venice and was cosmographer to the Republic of Venice. Gastaldi enjoyed a productive relationship with Giovanni Ramusio, Secretary of the Venice Senate, who used Gastaldi's maps for his *Navigazione et Viaggi*. This map is from Gastaldi's edition of Ptolemy, *Ptolemeo. La Geografia...*, begun as early as 1542 and published in Venice In 1548.

**Size:** 5.25" x 7" .

**References:**

Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of the World*, #87, plate 74.

\*Wolff, H., *America, Early Maps of the New World*, #92, p. 76.