



**Cosmographia Universalis Et  
Exactissima iuxta Postremam Neotericorum Traditionem**

**Cartographer:** Giovanni Francesco Camocio

**Date:** Venice, 1567-93.

**Size:** 62.5 x 104.5 cm.

**Description:** This large four-sheet world map was executed by an engraver whose initials appear between the two panels of text at the bottom. The initials can be read as 'MF' or 'NNF' and in the latter case it has been suggested that they refer to Nicolo Nelli, a contemporary Venetian engraver. Nelli (if it was he) engraved the map in 1567 at the 'Sign of the Pyramid' - Carnocio's shop in Venice.

Apart from Zaltieri's map of North America of 1566 (#391), it is the first to be based on Gastaldi's world map of c.1561 (#376) that supposedly was issued to accompany his pamphlet *La Universale Descrittione del Mondo*. It is thus one of the earliest extant maps showing the *Strait of Anian* separating America and Asia, and giving a new configuration for northern Asia and the Pacific Ocean. Generally, however, the map is no more accurate than its predecessors and in some cases - the British Isles, Iceland, Madagascar, India and South America - Camocio introduces distortions and over-simplification. There is an extensive southern continent patterned by mountain ranges, trees, and imaginary animals.

In spite of its limitations geographically, Camocio's map is a masterly piece of elegant Venetian copper-engraving. In the corners are the figures of Juno representing Air, Vulcan at his anvil for Fire, Rhea or Cybele for Earth and Neptune in a chariot drawn by sea-horses. There are also satyrs and cherubs, and almost fifty ships and sea monsters decorating the stippled sea. It is the largest of the general maps to be found in Italian composite atlases of the time.

There were three later states, dated 1569, 1581 and 1593, the latter two taken from retouched plates and carrying imprints in the lower panels Ad signum S. Marco MDLXXXI and Apud Andrea Bertellum ad signum S. Marco MDLXXXIII respectively.

Besides Camocio's single-sheet maps of the continents and the world, he published an *Isolario*, a collection of island maps and plans of harbor. It was published between c. 1566 and 1574 without a title, after 1575 with the title *Isole Famose Porti, Fortezze E Terre Maritime* by Donato Bertelli who published the plates under his name after the death of Camocio.

**Reference:**

Shirley, R.W., *The Mapping of the World*, #117, PLATE 101 (overleaf).



*Strait of Anian*



*Flora and fauna in the large "Southern Continent"*

