



Extremely rare miniature map of the West Indies

FRESCHOT, Casimir Don.

Antille (7) Isole nel. America, delli Spagnoli. Francesi, Ingilesi, Ollandesi, e de naturali del paese

Venice: Giovanni Pare', c. 1680. 52 x 52mm.

£650

An extremely rare map of the West Indies, one of 153 squares of a 'goose game', 'Geografia ridotta a giuoco per istruttione della giovane nobiltà veneziana', of which there is one known complete example, in the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice. The game was designed by Don Casimir Freschot, a Benedictine Priest and author of about 50 books on history and Venice, to facilitate 'the teaching of geography to the young Venetian nobility'. Engraved by Anton Francesco Lucini, this was probably the earliest geographical game to be published. The 'board' comprised 153 squares containing small maps, arranged in a spiral, with a plan of Venice at the centre. Above the game were four larger maps of the continents, the rules, including the prizes and forfeits for landing on squares, and a dedication.

'Charta Geographica' magazine, vol.1, page 76; plus insert with facsimile broadsheet.

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