



The first map devoted to New England and New France

RAMUSIO, Giovanni Battista.  
 [La Nuova Francia.]

Venice, 1606. Woodcut, printed area 275 x 375mm.

£2,950

An important early map of New England and Canada, with the first use of the name 'New France', published in Ramusio's 'Raccolta di Navigazioni et Viaggi'. Although it was probably designed by Giacomo Gastaldi from his own 'Tierra Nueva' of 1548, the larger scale allows better detail. It shows the Hudson River and the St. Lawrence as one large loop; the New York area is 'Angoulesme', with 'Flora' believed to be the south of Long Island; 'Port Real' is Newport Bay and 'Port du Refuge' is Narragansett Bay. The importance of the Grand Banks is highlighted by the number of fishing boats decorating the seas around Newfoundland. This example was printed from the second block, cut in 1565 after the first was destroyed by a fire in the printing house of Thomaso Guinti after only a year's use. A noticeable difference is the addition of a few weeping willows. The 1606 edition is recognisable by evidence of woodworm damage to the printing block and the pagination numbers '353' and '354'.

BURDEN: 25.

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