



A scarce sea chart of Sutherland and the Orkneys

DUDLEY, Robert.

Carta particolare della costa di Scozia che comincia con il C: di Cromar e Finisce con l'Isole di Orcades... di Europa Carta XXXV.

Florence: Francesco Onofri, 1661. Coloured. 490 x 380mm.

£1,100

A sea chart of the north east extremities of Scotland, showing from Cromarty in Ross-shire, the coasts of Sutherland and Caithness, to Strathclyde in Strathclyde. The Orkneys are also included but they are obviously stretching the cartographer's knowledge! Sir Robert Dudley's monumental atlas, 'Dell'Arcano del Mare' (Secrets of the Sea) was the first English sea-atlas to be printed (albeit engraved and published in Italy), breaking the Dutch monopoly of such publications. As a friend of Drake and brother-in-law of Thomas Cavendish he had enviable access to the latest information. The son of the Earl of Leicester, favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, he was born in secret to avoid her jealousy. Well educated, he joined the Elizabethan maritime adventurers and led an expedition to the Orinoco in 1594, raiding Trinidad en route. After failing to prove his legitimacy in 1605 he left England for Italy, and forfeited all property after illegally assuming the title of Earl of Warwick. He died in 1649, two years after the first edition of the 'Arcano'. The engraver Antonio Francesco Lucini wrote in the introduction to the second edition that he worked for 12 years on the copper plates, which weighed 5000 lbs. His clear style of engraving, with florid script, make the Dudley charts instantly recognisable.



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ZOPAL & CARDER: Mapping of the Moon, Past and Present, 1974.

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