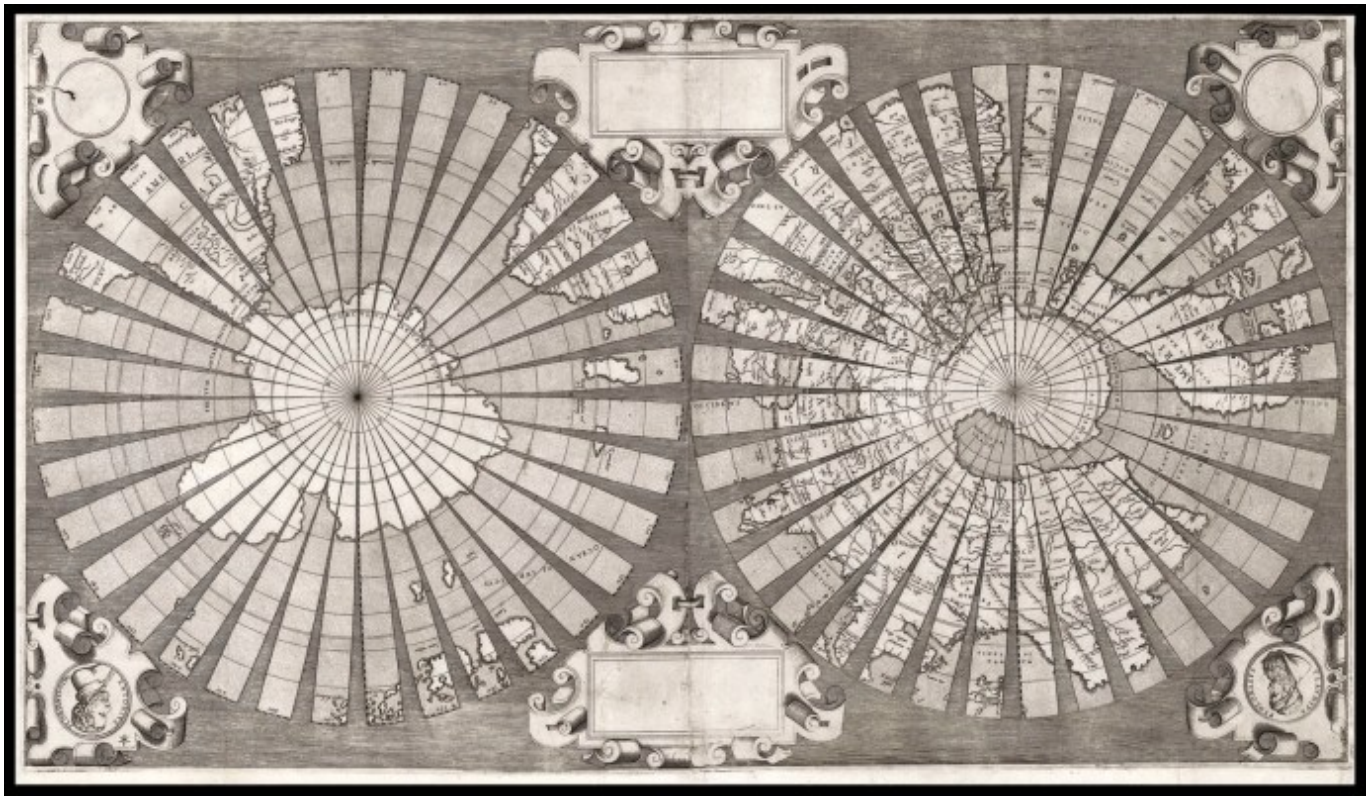


Large engraved map on two sheets joined.

THE ‘BICYCLE SPOKE’ WORLD MAP

[untitled world map]

Author
FLORIANO, Antonio

Publication date
c.1555].

Publisher

Publication place
[?Venice,

Physical description
Large engraved map on two sheets joined.

Dimensions
460 by 835mm (18 by 32.75 inches).

Notes
Antonio Floriano’s fine and rare world map upon a polar projection.

Floriano’s map raises some very intriguing questions. With its lack of either a title or imprint, one would assume that it was a proof copy, however all other known examples are similar. Second, Floriano’s decision to divide the two hemispheres into 36 globe gores would lead one to conclude that the map was intended to be dissected and mounted as a globe, as Shirley notes in its

undissected form the map “lack[s] legibility”. However, with portraits of both Floriano and Ptolemy together with the elaborate strap-work to the borders, it is unlikely that this was Floriano’s intention.

There is also some debate on the exact date of the map. It is known that Antonio Floriano was granted a privilege by the Venetian state to prepare and publish a world map in January 1555, with the present map published in the same year. However, several authorities have questioned this, stating the geographic information (copied from Mercator’s 1538 cordiform map) leads to an earlier publication date between 1545-50. The engraving has been attributed to Paolo Cimerlino, due to the monogram that appears next to the portrait of Floriano, yet this seems unlikely.

Bibliography

Gallo, Antonio Florian and his Mappemonde; Nordenskiold, Facsimile Atlas, p. 94 & fig. 48.; Shirley, 99; Tooley, Maps in Italian Atlases 23.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 1228

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