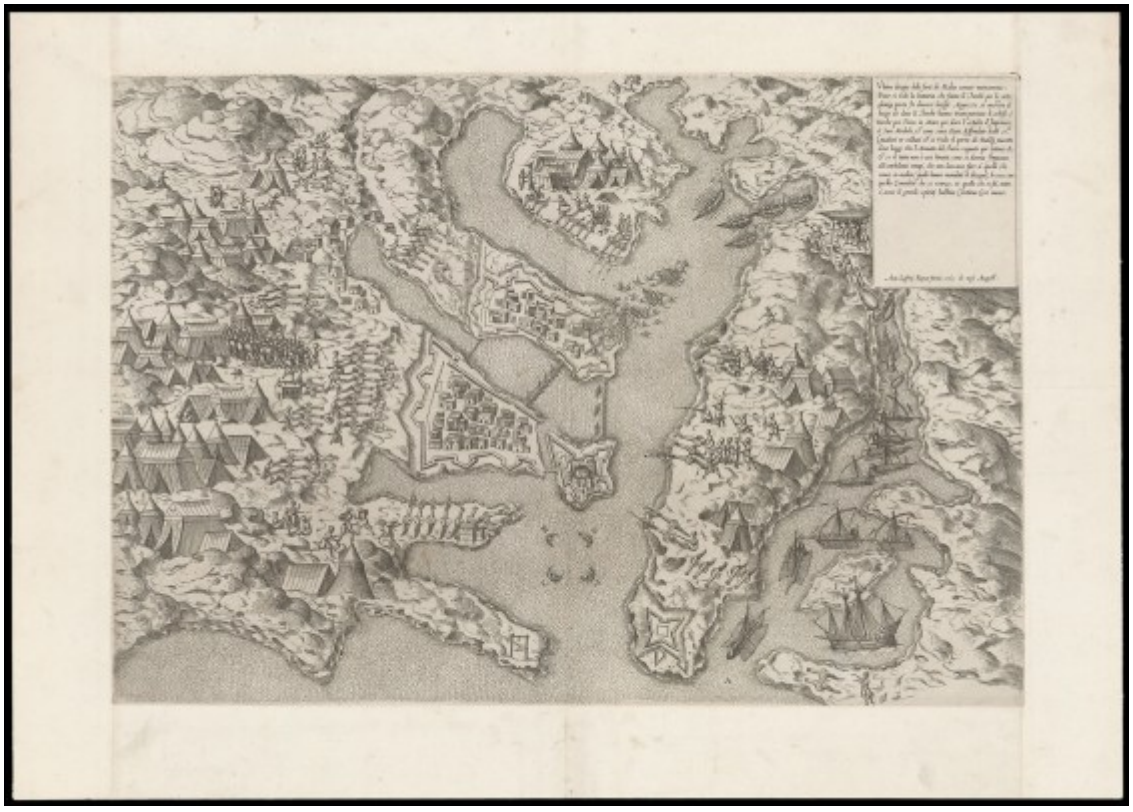


Engraved broadsheet map, with extended margins.

RARE PLAN OF THE ‘GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA’

Ultimo disegno delli forti di Malta venuto nuouamente...

Author
LAFRERI, Antonio

Publication date
August, 1565.

Publisher
Ant[onio] Lafreri,

Publication place
Rome,

Physical description
Engraved broadsheet map, with extended margins.

Dimensions
440 by 620mm. (17.25 by 24.5 inches).

Notes
On the 19th May 1565, the Maltese were subjected to a four month siege by the largest armada that had ever left the Bosporus. The Ottomans believed that control of this strategically important island was vital in their war against the Christian powers; and although they had a significant numerical advantage – 30,000 men against the defenders 700 knights and 9000 men – the Ottoman siege proved unsuccessful and that same year they withdrew from Malta.

During the siege several publishers issued broadsheet or ‘news-maps’ in order to feed the voracious public appetite for news on the siege’s latest developments. One such publisher was Antonio Lafreri who issued several maps of the Island and of various stages of the siege – including the Ottomans’ eventual retreat.

Bibliography
Tooley, Maps in Italian Atlases of the Sixteenth Century, 384.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 1242

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025