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SCARCE ITALIAN PLAYING CARD DEPICTING THE RIVERS OF SOUTH EUROPE

£250.00

I. Fiumi Principali di Europa si scaricano nel Mare Mediterraneo.

Cartographer	Anonymous.
Date	1790
Stock #:	24233
Publication:	Bologna: Tipografia de' Franceschi alla Colomba?, c.1790. Engraved playing card, sheet 115 x 60mm, with red woodcut design on reverse.
Condition:	Slightly trimmed, as issued.

DESCRIPTION:

A playing card representing the rivers that discharge into the Mediterranean Sea, with Neptune and six allegorical figures of rivers: the Rhône, Tiber, Ebro, Arno, Danube and Po.

This was one of 78 cards in a geographical game played following the same rules as tarocchi (tarot). It was the first of the 21 map trump cards ('The Magician' in a tarot pack). In this version the suits were North, South,



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Central and Islands, each with ten letterpress descriptions of counties in those regions and four court cards with a woodcut armorial and a letterpress text.

The woodcut pattern on the back of the card is a red flower design with the address 'Alla Colomba' (At the Dove). This was the address of Tipografia de' Franceschi in Bologna from the 1790s until at least 1860.