

# Cartografia e topografia italiana del XVI secolo. Catalogo ragionato delle opere a stampa

[Italian Cartography and Topography in the 16th century. Annotated Catalogue of Printed Works]

By Stefano Bifulco and Fabrizio Ronca, with contributions from Andrea Cantile, Annalisa D'Ascenzo, Fabio Fatichenti – Gaia Andreozzi, Clemente Marigliani, Alessandro Signoretti

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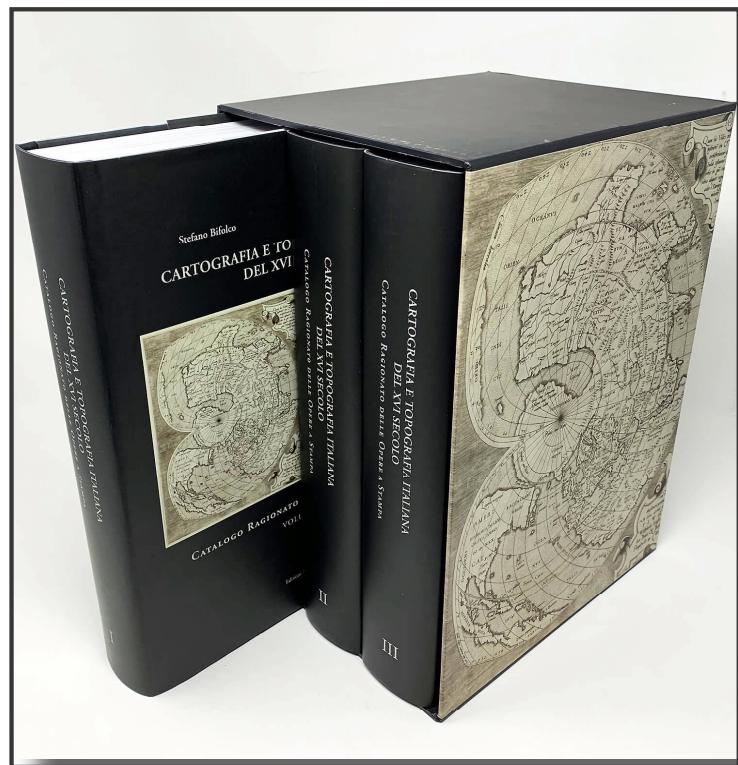
— 2561 p., ill. in colour and in black and white

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In a recent article, Stefano Bifulco announced the forthcoming publication of what can be considered his magnum opus, but I think one can safely state that nobody had expected its publication at such short notice.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, Stefano Bifulco, together with Fabrizio Ronca, who is also the co-editor of this publication, had, only in 2014, published another major work, dedicated to the inventory of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Italian topographic maps of Italy and its regions, with detailed descriptions of some 151 maps or 328 states.<sup>2</sup> The latter was already an audacious initiative, but the catalogue under discussion surpasses it by far, comprising 1280 different maps or 2232 different states of topographical maps, city plans and views, news maps and representations of battlefields, published in Italy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century

1 St. Bifulco, *Raccolta di carte geografiche incisa nella seconda metà del secolo XVI*, posseduta dalla Biblioteca Alessandrina di Roma, in W. Bracke (ed.), *IATO Atlases and Lafreri. The Roman Connection* (Ricerche e Studi 29), Rome: società Geografica Italiana – Academia Belgica, 2018, pp. 107-126, 109.

2 St. Bifulco and F. Ronca, *Cartografia rara italiana: XVI secolo. L'Italia e i suoi territori. Catalogo Ragionato delle Carte a Stampa*, Rome: Edizioni Antiquarius, 2014,



and later. In fact, the title does not completely cover the catalogue content as it also discusses maps of the 15<sup>th</sup> century which inspired later maps, and 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century states of maps published in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Italy.

The catalogue is clearly the result of a titanic enterprise which has taken the editors several years and much intellectual and financial effort to achieve. Except for some very rare

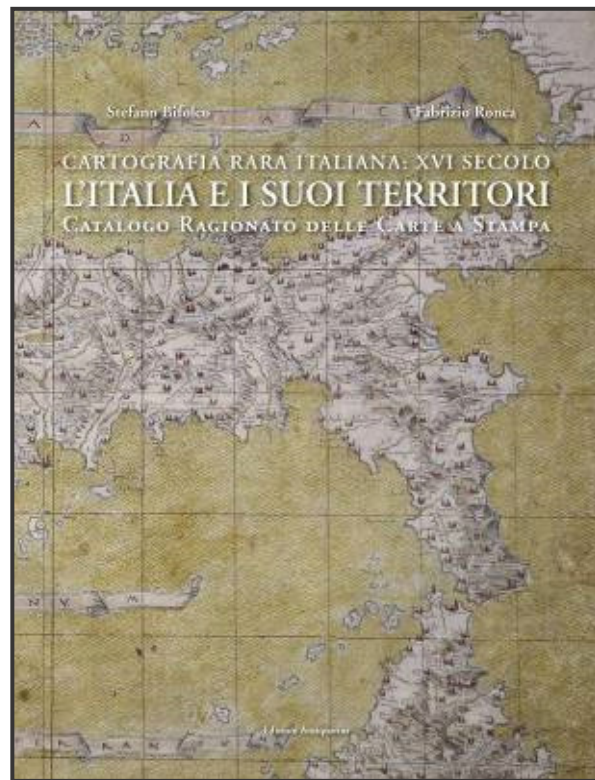
items, all maps and states have been studied *de visu* by the editors of the catalogue who visited over 60 libraries all over Europe and in the United States. The following information has been painstakingly assembled for every single map: a detailed description of the map with transcription of the map's texts; an explanation of the map's content and the history of its production and publication; a list of different states

(sometimes only conjectured due to a lack of copies found); a double bibliography of a) 16<sup>th</sup>-century atlases that contain the map and b) monographies and articles on the map; a findings list of libraries ordered according to the states of the map (unfortunately without precise bibliographical references of the map's location in the atlas). For every map a picture is added and where different states have been discovered, pictures are inserted of the map's variants according to its state. Completing the catalogue: a list of about hundred 16<sup>th</sup>-century atlases that have been consulted for establishing the catalogue, ordered by country and by library, with bibliography; short biographies of the engravers, printers, editors and publishers mentioned in the catalogue, in alphabetical order; a general bibliography of works cited in the catalogue; and, finally, an index of proper names. Furthermore, the first volume contains 6 introductory essays which should cover the variety of cartographic items found in the catalogue: the Ptolemaic tradition and its updates; maps of cities and islands; measuring instruments and world maps. After a rapid and rather heterogeneous overview of medieval world maps and the location of Paradise, portolans, explorations, the origin of engraving and map printing in Florence, Rome, Venice, Naples and Siena, wall maps (with too many quotations from secondary literature in my view) by Clemente Marigliani (*Lineamenti di cartografia tra Medioevo e Rinascimento: dalle mappe manoscritte a quelle a stampa* [cartographic features between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: from manuscript maps to printed ones], 13-64), Fabio Fatichenti and Gaia Andreozzi discuss in detail the different editions of Ptolemy's *Geographia* (or *Cosmographia* as it was often referred to) with particular attention to the 1477 edition by Domenico de' Lapi in Bologna, the Roman edition by Arnold Buckinck

and Konrad Sweynheym of 1478, the Berlinghieri edition of 1482 in Florence, the Roman edition by Marco Beneventano and Giovanni Cotta, printed by Vernardinus de Vitablilus for Evangelista Tosino of 1507, the Venetian edition by Silvano da Eboli of 1511 and Gastdali's edition printed by Nicolo' Bascarini for Giovanni Battista Pedrezano in Venice in 1548 (*Specificità, fortuna e auctoritas del canone tolemaico* [Particularities, fortune and auctoritas of the Ptolemaic canon], 65-115). In his contribution on maps of cities and fortresses, Stefano Bifolco (*Città e Fortezze Principali del Mondo. Le prime raccolte italiane di cartografia urbana e gli isolari del XVI secolo* [Main cities and fortresses of the world. The first Italian atlases of cities and isles of the 16<sup>th</sup> century], 116-152) concentrates on the first town books printed in Italy from 1567 onwards, those published by Forlani and Zenoi, up to Pietro Bertelli's *Theatrum Urbium Italicarum* (1599). They account for many of the additions to Ronald V. Tooley's inventory of Italian maps, to which I will return later on. Andrea Cantile (*Metodi e strumenti del rilevamento urbano*

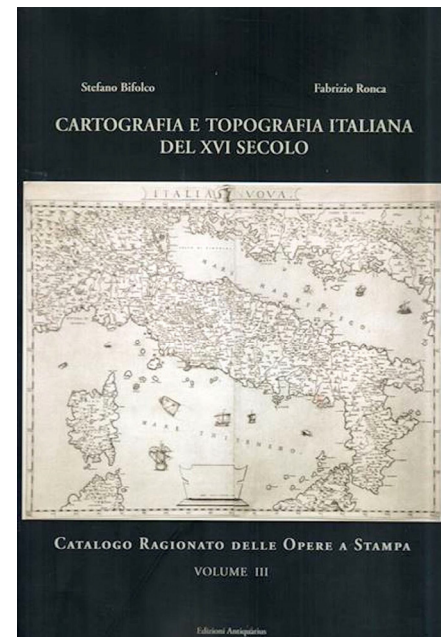
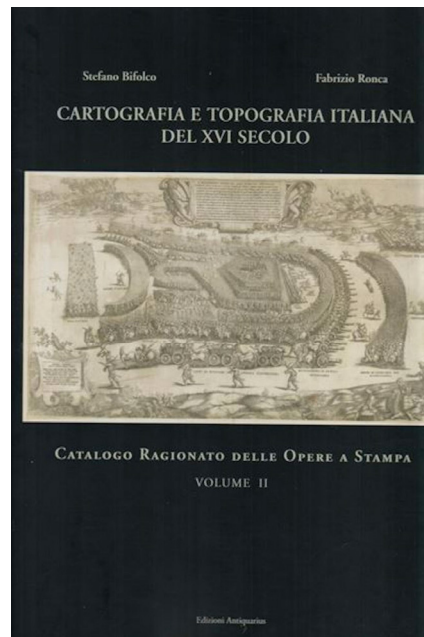
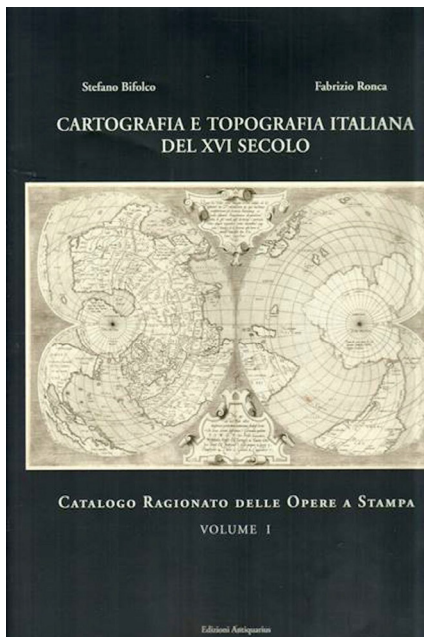
e territoriale nel Rinascimento (Methods and instruments for measuring cities and territories in the Renaissance], 153-164) discusses geometrical treatises in Italy (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> c.) and briefly describes scientific instruments such as the quadrant, the quadrato geometrico, the compass and the *Tabula praetoriana*. Annalisa D'Ascenzo basically updates her study of Urbano Monti, *trattato universale deccrittione e sito de tutta la terra sin qui conosciuta*, on which she has published a monography in 2012 (*I più grandi planisferi in proiezione polare della prima età moderna* (XVI-XVII secolo) [The largest world maps in polar projection of the early modern time (16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c.)], 165-184) and Alessandro Signoretti (*Copyright nel Rinascimento: il privilegio* [Copyright in the Renaissance: the privilege], 186-194) explains the complex history of printing, in particular print making, and its privileges in Venice and in Rome, both being the most important printing cities of Italy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

David Woodward has without doubt delivered the most relevant



The publication of 2014 by S. Bifolco and F. Ronca





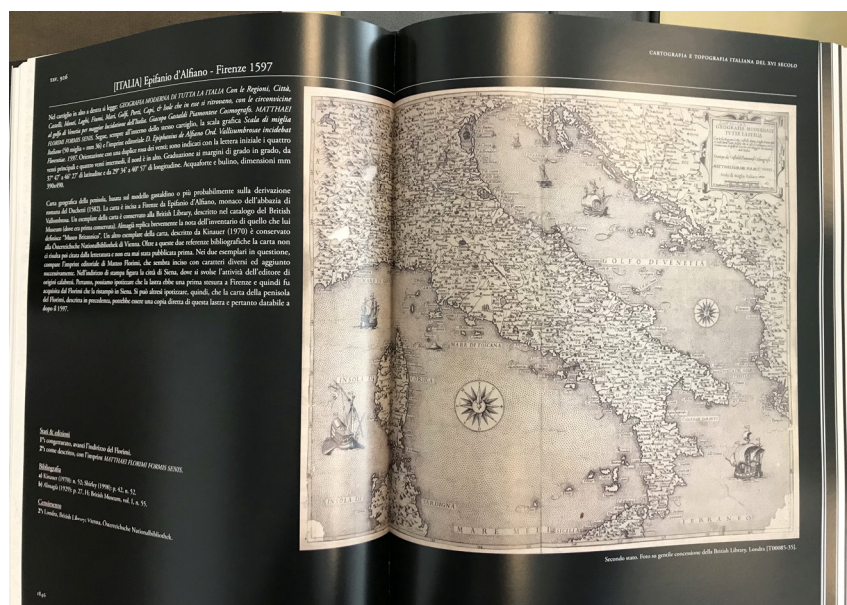
The 3-volumes publication of 2018 by S. Bifolco and F. Ronca

contributions to the history of the Italian map market in the Renaissance, but the work which is most often cited in scholarly studies on Italian maps of the 16<sup>th</sup> century is the inventory by Tooley published in *Imago Mundi* in 1939.<sup>3</sup> This list of over 600 maps is far from complete and in large part based on information found in secondary literature. During his lifetime Tooley himself was continuously updating

3« Maps in Italian Atlases of the Sixteenth Century, Being a Comparative List of the Italian Maps issued by Lafreri, Forlani, Duchetti, Bertelli and Others, Found in Atlases', *Imago Mundi* 6 (1939), pp. 12-47. For Woodward's publications, see the bibliography in W. Bracke (ed.), *IATO Atlases and Lafreri*, op. cit., p. 23.

the inventory. This second, enlarged, version was never published though and until recently was even considered to be lost. Somehow Stefano Bifolco was able to trace this version, study it and use it for his own catalogue. And so, the latter respects Tooley's ordering of the maps and starts with world maps, which are followed by maps of countries and regions, to finish with urban cartography, all assembled by continent and ordered alphabetically and chronologically. As Bifolco writes himself in the preface, his catalogue could be called 'The new Tooley', and as such replace the old Tooley.

As already the numbers given in the first paragraph of this review indicate, the Catalogue is far more complete than the 1939 inventory. It is also much more coherent and precise. For every single item, the authors address the difficult question of what map is to be considered an edition and what maps are just different states of one and the same edition. The result of this questioning allows them to link maps with different imprints to a single edition and separate others that until now have been considered different states of the same edition. They also clarify relationships between various editions and editors, comparing the results of their reading of secondary literature at hand to their own findings based on their rich census. In so doing they could, more than once, on the basis of material evidence and using existing inventories of various print shops, identify maps bearing no imprint and even speculate on editions and states of which no copy has been found so far. Lastly, the authors include some 17<sup>th</sup>-century (and exceptionally even 18<sup>th</sup>-century) publishers we do not find in Tooley.



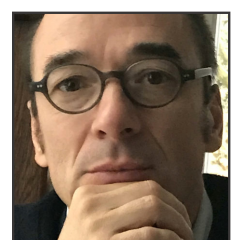
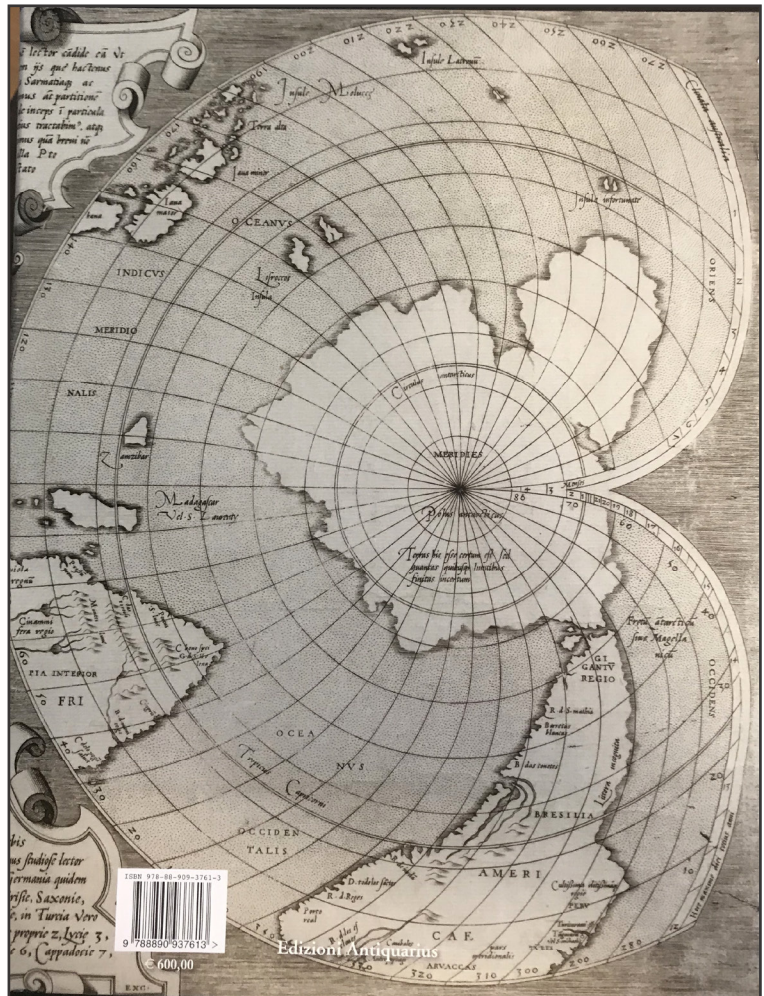
As predictably in the future references will be no longer to Tooley but rather to Bifolco-Ronca, to help readers in their research for information on a specific map (and its different states)



which in literature is until now referred to with Tooley's list number, we have drawn up a concordance between Tooley's number and Bifolco's; it can be found below.

In its careful reading of every single state of a map, in its particular attention for the extraordinary and the exceptional, in the small number of printed copies (only 350), the catalogue shows the interest of a map dealer writing for map collectors and devotees. This book is no doubt of the utmost importance to all scholars interested in maps and their production, in the Italian print business in the Renaissance, the history of cartography, and the history of collecting maps and prints, then and now. In this regard and on a personal level, I regret that hardly any indication is given of the watermarks on the maps. This would have been a great help to my own research, continuing David Woodward's fundamental study on this topic, based on watermarks and offsets, in order to better understand the Italian map business of the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the production of the so-called IATO atlases.

The catalogue is definitely worth its price. As only 350 copies have been printed, I suppose a reprint or a new edition will soon be necessary. Now that the fundamentals have been laid down, many more maps will come to light, buried in some library or cherished in some private collection. If the authors were to opt for a new edition, I would like to suggest having a closer look at the transcriptions of the Latin texts found on the maps as they need some serious amending.



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## Concordance Tooley – Bifolco/Ronca

0		57	75	116	335
1	14	58	72	117	339
2	14	59	73	119	339
3	12	60	76	120	494
5	12	61	74	121	495
6	13	62	75	123	498
7	18	63	74	124	491
8	18	64	165	125	493
9	21	65	166	126	499
11	22	66	167	128	333
13	22	67	91	129	333
14	25	70	92	130	334
15	27	71	93	131	293
16	22	73	84-85,94	132	294
17	21	74	92	133	295
18	15	75	97	134	295
19	23	76	97	135	296
20	24	76	98	136	297
21	24	77	49	137	570
22	26	78	50	138	506
23	37	80	56	139	1078bis
24	19	81	56	140	400
25	228	82	52	142	280
26	228	84	63	143	280
27	228	85	63	144	281
28	232	86	64	145	282
29	229	87	65	146	282
30	211	88	62	147	957
31	213	89	61	148	961
32	214	90	60	149	959
33	216	91	60	150	515
34	235	92	59	151	408
35	236	93	57	152	404
36	243	94	1042	153	404
37	241	95	1072	154	1085
38	242	96	113	155	171
39	219	97	115	156	172
40	246	98	116	157	172
41	247	99	119	158	169
42	247	100	124	159	174
43	247	101	120	160	170
44	248	102	1018	161	726
45	19	103	1017	162	736
46	67	104	1019	163	730
47	69	105	1017	164	731
48	68	106	1073	165	727
49	75	107	1075	166	728
51	68	108	1076	167	735
52	70	109	1075	168	386
53	76	110	309	169	389
54	71	111	308	170	387
55	71	114	1050	171	388
56	71	115	335	172	714

174	716	229	977	286	657
175	717	230	978	287	658
176	719	231	298	288	656
177	723	232	298	289	659
178	722	233	299	290	678
179	835	234	299	291	660
180	836	235	300	292	665
181	840	236	361	293	416
182	837	237	362	294	416
183	838	238	358	295	531
184	848	239	364	296	530
185	846	240	1106	297	317
186	845	241	1110	298	302
187	843	242	1109	299	302
188	587	243	1111	300	303
189	586	244	134	301	303
190	586	245	133	302	304
191	586	246	133	303	304
193	105	247	133	305	557
194	106	248	322	306	492
195	1008	249	329	307	503
196	1010	250	324	308	502
196	1011	251	324	309	255
197	273	252	325	310	254
198	283	253	326	311	253
199	283	254	327	313	87
200	286	255	327	314	351
201	285	256	330	315	274
202	286	257	331	316	277
203	288	258	331	317	277
205	289	259	159	318	278
206	1099	260	147	319	278
207	234	261	161	320	1043
207	233	262	347	321	597
208	370	263	344	322	598
209	371	264	344	323	598
210	371	265	345	324	598
211	374	266	249	325	598
212	375	267	250	326	908
213	375	268	257	327	908
214	369	269	260	328	911
215	369	270	259	329	910
216	373	271	261	330	910
217	341	272	264	331	912
218	290	273	265	333	915
219	291	274	270	334	917
221	292	275	268	335	917
222	251	276	266	336	914
223	251	278	649	337	921
224	976	279	651	338	923
225	976	280	653	339	202
228	976	281	653	340	200
226	979	282	654	341	200
227	976	283	655	342	196
228	976	284	652	343	197

344	532	401	1035	458	1044
345	484	403	1036	459	1048
346	931	404	1037	460	1046
347	931	405	1037	461	523
348	931	406	1039	462	526
349	933	407	1039	463	769
350	934	408	1152	464	769
351	933	409	1151	465	768
352	935	410	1156	466	770
353	936	412	1158	467	773
354	937	413	1157	468	419
355	474	414	824	469	419
356	476	415	827	472	1228
357	478	416	832	474	1021
358	879	417	1160	475	1021
359	867	418	1160	476	1021
360	871	419	428	477	1021
361	880	420	428	478	1023
362	894	422	429	479	1023
363	894	423	428	480	1025
364	895	424	1162	481	1027
365	894	425	1163	482	1027
366	885	426	1029	483	1027
367	891	427	509	484	1222
368	864	428	509	485	1206
371	862	429	969	486	1224
372	900	430	969	487	1229
373	863	431	1168	488	1232
374	875	432	1168	489	1220
375	880	433	185	491	1226
376	882	434	186	492	1233
377	876	435	187	493	1224
379	872	436	190	494	1213
380	873	437	192	495	1216
381	870	438	193	496	1236
381	870	439	189	497	1237
382	877	440	207	498	512
383	884	441	430	499	511
384	892	441		500	511
385	878	442	431	501	513
386	898	443	1172	503	108
387	890	444	1176	505	107
388	1125	445	437	506	445
389	940	446	950	509	1066
390	1139	447	946	510	1067
391	479	448	948	511	1068
392	481	449	949	512	1069
393	482	450	949	513	955
394	1146	451	951	514	1053
395	1145	452	444	515	1056
396	1148	453	507	516	1054
397	1147	454	508	517	1054
398	668	455	508	518	1057
399	668	456	471	519	1055
400	670	457	1044	520	1055

521	1058	568	996
522	1002	569	991
522	1002	570	991
524	1192	572	994
525	618	573	991
526	619	574	995
527	456	577	998
528	458	577	995
529	461	577	997
530	460	578	990
531	468	579	130
532	463	580	1262
533	467	581	1262
534	354	582	1262
535	355	583	1262
536	356	584	1269
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544	540	592	918
545	540	593	967
546	545	594	1202
547	86	595	1203
548	449	596	559
549	447	597	558
550	552	598	1205
551	554	600	636
552	490	601	637
553	490	602	252
554	139	604	412
555	142	605	794
556	143	606	795
557	156	607	796
558	146	608	814
559	146	609	546
560	148	610	547
561	149	611	793
562	150	612	826
563	151	613	550
564	153	614	439
565	989		
566	991		
567	993		