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A General Chart of the West India's By John Seller, John Colson, William Fisher, James Atkinson & John Thornton

Stock#: 23218
Map Maker: Seller
Date: 1677
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21.5 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Second state of Seller's important early English chart of the Atlantic and the contiguous coasts of North America, the Caribbean, Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa, identifying his many partners of the period, after the first edition of 1675.

This general chart of the Atlantic Ocean from Seller's *Atlas Maritimus* is one of Seller's most famous and influential charts, elegantly embellished with an elephant cartouche dominating the interior of Africa. This feature inspired Jonathan Swift's quatrain criticizing the ignorance of map-makers: "So Geographers in Afric-maps, With Savage-Pictures fill their Gaps; And o'er unhabitable Downs, Place Elephants for want of Towns." This second edition of the map includes the names of Seller's recently added partners. The partnership was created to save Seller from financial difficulties.

The chart finds its origins in Willem Jansz. Blaeu's second *West Indische PASKAERT*, published circa 1630, the first sea chart relating to America to use Mercator's projection. The coverage here does not extend as far westward and excludes the Gulf of Mexico, an area of little or no English activity or interest at the time. For his cartouche Seller draws upon the Blaeu version published by Jacob Aerts. Colom, c.1655. Here though he is generous to the elephant, giving him a less onerous 'tower' to bear. The map retains the portolano style employed by Blaeu, with relatively little detail in the interior.

Seller's treatment of Tierra del Fuego is more up-to-date, with new geographical information inserted around the La Plata River. The region between Chesapeake Bay and Long Island in North America is improved, an area



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that the early Dutch cartographers had long had difficulty with. Florida bears the standard early nomenclature of both the Spanish and French. Further north the toponyms are completely English. All of the English colonies are named including New Iarsey and placenames in Carolina.

A near fine example of the map, which rarely appears on the market.

Detailed Condition:

Minor restoration at lower centerfold. Minor wormholes, expertly filled on verso. Generally, a near fine example.