



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

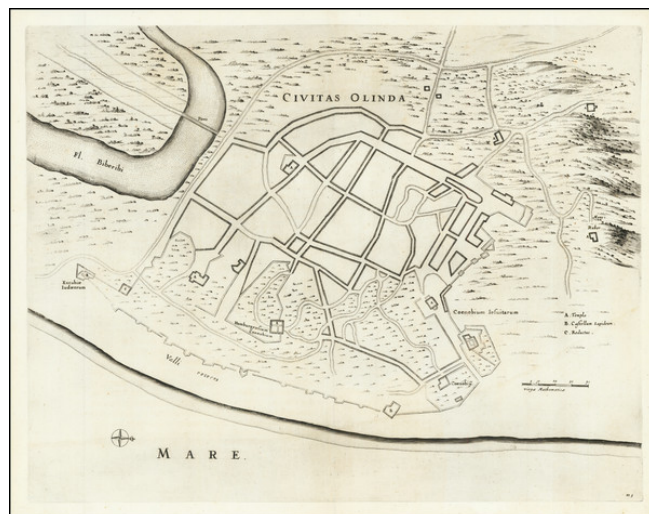
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Civitas Olinda

Stock#: 74304
Map Maker: Blaeu / Marcgraf
Date: 1647
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare early Dutch map of the area around Fort Frederik Hendrik and Antonio Vaz on the island of Antônio Vaz ('Insula Antonij Vaazij.'), published by Johannes Blaeu in 1647.

The map shows the area around Olinda in Pernambuco at the time of Count Nassau's arrival in 1637.

Olinda

The settlement of Olinda was founded in 1535 by Duarte Coelho Pereira, from Portugal and became the seat of the Roman Catholic Territorial Prelature of Pernambuco in 1614, and the Diocese of Olinda in 1676. The economy of the region was dominated by the production of sugarcane. This, combined with the importing of slaves from Africa to support cultivation made Olinda a colonial stronghold.

Olinda was the capital of the Portuguese captaincy of Pernambuco, but was burned by Dutch invaders. The Portuguese built their town on the hill, for practical purposes (eg, sewers) and to make it easier to defend. In the 17th century the Kingdom of Portugal was united with Spain (the 1580-1640 Iberian Union). Taking advantage of this period of Portuguese weakness, the area around Olinda and Recife was occupied by the Dutch who gained access to the Portuguese sugarcane plantations.

John Maurice, Prince of Nassau-Siegen was appointed as the governor of the Dutch possessions in Brazil in 1637 by the Dutch West India Company on recommendation of Frederick Henry. He landed at Recife, the port of Pernambuco and the chief stronghold of the Dutch, in January 1637. By a series of successful expeditions, he gradually extended the Dutch possessions from Sergipe on the south to São Luís de



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Maranhão in the north. He likewise conquered the Portuguese possessions of Saint George del Mina, Saint Thomas, and Luanda, Angola, on the west coast of Africa. After the dissolution of the Iberian Union in 1640, Portugal would reestablish its authority over the lost territories of the Portuguese Empire, including the former Dutch Brazil. Sugarcane plantation slavery would continue to be a source of wealth in Olinda until the Lei Áurea ("Golden Law") abolished slavery in an independent Brazil in 1888.

Detailed Condition: