



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Chart of the Coast of Guinea, from Cape de Verd to Cape Bona Esperanca. Drawn with Squares of the Side of each Square Containing 100 English Leagues. By John Seller, Hydrographer to the King

Stock#: 99963
Map Maker: Price & Seller
Date: 1701
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 2,400.00



Description:

Rare Seller & Price sea chart of the west coast of Africa, from Cape Verde to the Cape of Good Hope.

The map appeared in an early edition of the first truly British sea atlas produced by John Seller, his partners and successors from the end of the 17th Century and updated and printed throughout the following one hundred years.

This rare English sea chart depicts the coast of Africa from Senegal all the way down to Cape Agulhas, past the Cape of Good Hope. The features of the coast are named in great detail, and the seas are elegantly traversed by loxodromes. The map is oriented with the east towards the top of the map. Decorative elements include a detailed cartouche of sea children, shells and a dolphin with a vignette of natives doing battle in the upper left corner and a compass rose in the lower right.

In 1671, London mapmaker John Seller (1630 - 1697) commenced work on *English Pilot*, a publication which he hoped would challenge the Dutch dominance of the market for sea charts and atlases. Seller envisioned a work in four books, covering different regions of the globe. Part I, describing northern navigation and published in 1671, was followed the next year by Part II covering southern navigation. In 1675 Part III, also known as *Oriental Navigation*, was printed though incomplete. Seller lacked the necessary capital to complete the mammoth undertaking, and in 1679 sold his rights to John Thornton



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(1641-1708), the official hydrographer to the English East India Company.

States of the Map and Rarity

There are 3 known states of the map:

- State 1 (1690): John Seller imprint. Includes a scale of miles and quarter compass rose.
- State 2 (1701): John Seller imprint. Scale of miles and quarter compass rose removed. Full compass rose at bottom right.
- State 3 (1734): Seller imprint removed from cartouche.

This edition of the map is drawn by Jeremiah Seller (1675-1720), John's son, from the incomplete *English Pilot, Part III of 1675*. Jeremiah Seller apprenticed under his father and was a mapmaker, instrument-maker and publisher. The younger Seller and his partner, Charles Price, were "Hydrographers to ye Queen" and "Compass makers to the Navy Royall." In partnership with Price, Jeremiah issued *The Fifth Part of the General English Pilot ... West Coast of Africa ... By Jer. Seller and Cha. Price London Printed by J. Mathews ... at the hermitage Stairs in Wapping.* in 1701, from which this map hails.

Circa 1705, complaints over the quality of their instruments caused Seller and Price to lose their contract with the Admiralty and, like his father before him, the firm was forced into bankruptcy. *Despite the family's financial difficulties, English Pilot* succeeded in giving the British dominance in the sea chart market as the 18th Century progressed.

This map is rare, with only one example offered in a dealer catalogue in the past 25 years (Susannah Fisher, Catalogue 58, 1988).

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color in outline. Some toning and light dampstain at the top edge.