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(Bangladesh) Nieuwe Kaarte van't Koninckryk Bengale, door last van Ed.Heer Mattheus. . .

Stock#: 75478
Map Maker: Valentijn
Date: 1724
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 17.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare regional map of the mouth of the Ganghes, produced by Johann van Leenen and published by Francois Valentijn fro his *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. The Kingdom of Bengal and the Ganges Delta are shown, the latter with its important farming districts, cities, and roads.

The map also shows the locations of several Dutch forts, reflecting increased Dutch trading habits in the region. Soundings are shown at sea, and a note describes the Bangladeshi coast. The map extends northwards to the Himalayas, but detail is only really present along the edges of rivers.

The map is based on the work of Johan van Leenen who made the first accurate survey of the eastern Bengal delta in 1666. It was drawn and engraved by Jan van Braam and Gerard onder de Linden.

Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien

After spending sixteen years in the East Indies over the course of several voyages, Valentijn returned to his native Dordrecht. There, he finished his history of the East Indies, *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. The book was divided in five parts spread over eight volumes. It had over a thousand illustrations, including some of the most accurate maps of the region published to that date.

For the text, Valentijn borrowed heavily from contemporary works. To create such detailed maps and descriptions, Valentijn most likely also had access to the VOC's archives. These archives were closely



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watched and very few scholars or officials gained entry, particularly if they were likely to publish the contents of the repository. Indeed, Valentijn was lucky to see his work published at all.

Today, Valentijn's work is regarded as a veritable encyclopedia on maritime Asia. It is considered a useful collection of sources, from the eighteenth century and earlier, drawn from the VOC and personal papers. Some of his maps, particularly those of Australia, are drawn from manuscript sources now lost, making his history the lone surviving record of endangered knowledge.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color in outline.