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[Kochi, India] De Stad Coetsjien Gelegen op de Cust van Malabar

Stock#: 76452
Map Maker: Valentijn
Date: 1724
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 11 x 14 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Chinsurah Factory in Dutch Bengal

Nice example of Francois Valentijn's view of the town of Kochi on the Malabar Coast of India, which at the time was under the control of the Portuguese and served as a trading center.

The map is featured in Valentijn's *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*, a significant history of the Dutch in Maritime Asia and one written with rare access to the Dutch East India Company (VOC) archives and information.

Kochi

The Portuguese first arrived in the area to Kappad Kozhikode in 1498 during the Age of Discovery, thus opening a direct sea route from Europe to India.

Portuguese navigator, Pedro Álvares Cabral founded the first European settlement in India at Kochi in 1500. From 1503 to 1663, Fort Kochi (known as Fort Emmanuel) was ruled by Portugal. Vasco da Gama, the first European explorer to set sail for India, was buried at St. Francis Church in Kochi until his remains were returned to Portugal in 1539.

The Portuguese rule was followed by that of the Dutch who renamed Fort Emmanuel as Fort Stormsburg. In meantime, the Royal Family of Kochi relocated the capital of Kochi Kingdom to Thrissur, leaving nominal authority over Islands of Kochi. In 1664, Fort Kochi Municipality was established by Dutch, making it the first municipality in Indian subcontinent. By 1773, the Mysore ruler Hyder Ali extended his conquest in the Malabar region to Kochi forcing it to become a tributary of Mysore.



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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 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.

This chart shows one of the world's most important features, the Cape of Good Hope, in detail. It was featured in an important publication chronicling the Dutch in the East Indies. It would be an advantageous addition to any collection of Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, or Dutch charts and maps.

Detailed Condition: