



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

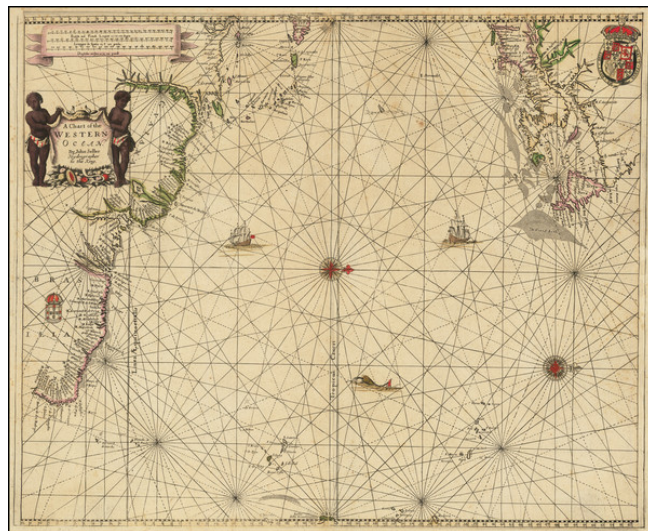
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

A Chart of the Western Ocean By John Seller, Hydrographer to the King

Stock#: 80520
Map Maker: Seller
Date: 1674
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 2,800.00



Description:

Charting the Approach to the Americas in the Seventeenth Century

Fine first state of John Seller's sea chart of the Western Atlantic and the contiguous coasts of New England, Canada, the eastern Caribbean, Brazil and the northeast coast of South America.

The chart is orientated with west at the top. It shows the coasts of Labrador, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, the Gulf of St Lawrence and along the coast to Long Island. From there, the chart covers the Atlantic south to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and along the coast of South America into Brazil, including Pernambuco (now Recife). The Azores and Cape Verde Islands are on the east side of the chart.

The chart was meant to help navigators in the approach to the Americas. However, it is not without ornament. In the interior of Labrador is the crest of Charles II, King of England, Scotland, and Ireland when this chart was published. The crest represents all three nations, with the three lions of England in the first and third quadrants, Scotland's lion in the second, and Ireland's harp in the third. With the three lions are fleur-de-lis, a reference to an antiquated English claim to the French throne. The motto around the crest, *Honi soit mal y pense*, translates as, "Evil to him who evil thinks." The Portuguese crest is in Brazil, much smaller than the English crest.

In the top left is a triple scale bar and a title cartouche. The title is carried on an animal hide by two women of color, a reference to the imperial systems at play when this chart was made. The Indigenous population of the areas shown had been decimated by the mid-seventeenth century. The primary labor



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force was enslaved people of African origin and descent. By the 1690s, just after this chart was published, 30,000 enslaved people per year were being shipped across the Atlantic on the Middle Passage. Overall, from 1526 to 1867, 12.5 million enslaved people were sent to the Americas; 10.7 million arrived there.

Seller's chart is based upon Theunis Jacobsz's chart of ca. 1650. The most notable additions are the inclusions of the Orinoco River in South America and the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland. This first state was used from 1674 (the date penciled onto the chart in Samuel Pepys' copy of Seller's *Atlas Maritimus*) to 1677, when the plate was revised. It may have been issued separately as early as 1672.

States of the chart

The chart is known in two states.

- State 1: John Seller imprint only.
- State 2: The names John Colson, William Fisher, James Atkinson and John Thornton are added to the title.

Rarity

The chart is very rare on the market. This is only the second example of the first state which we have offered in over 25 years.

Detailed Condition:

Old Color