



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[The King of Florida] Der König in Florida

Stock#: 94085
Map Maker: Happel
Date: 1688
Place: Hamburg
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 7 x 12 inches
Price: \$ 345.00



Description:

The King of Florida

Scarce image of the "King of Florida" and several of his subjects with indigenous costumes.

The image appeared in Happel's *Thesaurus Exoticorum*, published in Hamburg in 1688. The text below reads:

Drawer Ref: Curiosities - People
2

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[The King of Florida] Der Konig in Florida

Next to Virginia to the southwest, quite well formed and painted, lies the vast region of Florida, which is intersected by various rivers. Towards the sea, however, it is completely flat and sandy. Sebastian Cabot first discovered this region, which was then named Sacafa, but later called Florida by Ponce de Leon. Here the Spanish have built two fortresses; one at Cape Helene is dedicated to the Apostle Matthew, while the city and castle of Augustine are located on the River May. Before both the castle and the city lies a land, inward full of meadows and trees, but near the sea, it is hilly. A rather deep and wide river runs through the land into a large waterway, which the city and fortress overlook. The fortress is square, with a round tower on either side. Two streams, flowing from the land into the waterway between the mainland and the foreland, strongly fortify the castle. The city itself is quadrangular. However, it is more densely built towards the fortress and is divided into four streets. The church stands outside the city, and right in front of it is the Augustinian monastery.

On the inhabitants' appearance and their deliberations:

The inhabitants are olive-skinned, large-bodied, and within 24 hours [possibly some context missing here]. For modesty, they wear deer skin, and on their heads, a cap, intertwined at the bottom with feathers. Black hair hangs down to their shoulders, which they braid at the top like a tulip. On their chest hang two small shields, and six smaller ones around the arms, as well as two shells on each ear, and a quiver full of arrows, tipped with fish teeth, on the side. In their left hand, which is covered at the top with a rectangular copper plate, they carry a bow. Thus, they go to war, with the king leading with a club. Every day they gather to discuss war matters in the king's residence, where he sits on an elevated platform. The most prominent greet him first, placing their hands on their heads as they shout: ha/he/ha, after which the others shout ha/ha. As soon as this greeting occurs, they sit down in a circle. When an important matter arises, the king summons the elders and priests, whom they call Jawas. Then, a drink made from leaves, which they call Kashine, is presented to the king. When he has drunk it, the others also drink in turn from the same cup. This drink induces sweating and suppresses hunger and thirst for 24 hours.

Detailed Condition: