



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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[Secotan Village / North Carolina] Oppidum Secota (with Text Sheet)

Stock#: 97136
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1590
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 9.1 x 12.2 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Secotan Village -- Roanoake

Finely engraved example of the Roanoke Indian town of Secotan based upon a watercolor painting by John White.

De Bry's engraved view shows village life as it was lived by the Algonquian-speaking Indians in the Outer Banks region of present-day North Carolina.

Secotan is not shown as enclosed by a palisade, as were other such towns. Instead, the dwellings are scattered amidst fields and forest. Three fields of corn are shown at the right side of the image, which White labeled in his original painting as "Corne newly sprong" (top), "Their greene corne" (center), and "Their rype corne" (bottom). A watchman is shown scaring away predators. Fields of tobacco (top center)



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and pumpkins (to the left of the ripe corn) are shown, drawn from the descriptions of Thomas Hariot.

De Bry's engravings accompanied *A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia*, Hariot's description of his year at Roanoke, which was intended to serve, in part, as a justification for further colonizing efforts. These rare, hand-colored versions of the illustrations appeared in a 1590 edition published in Latin.

In 1585, Governor John White, was part of a voyage from England to the Outer Banks of North Carolina under a plan of Sir Walter Raleigh to settle "Virginia." White was at Roanoke Island for about thirteen months before returning to England for more supplies. During this period he made a series of over seventy watercolor drawings of indigenous people, plants, and animals. The purpose of his drawings was to give those back home an accurate idea of the inhabitants and environment in the New World. The earliest images derived from White's original drawings were made in 1590, when Theodor De Bry made engravings from White's drawings to be printed in Thomas Hariot's account of the journey. Hariot, a mathematician, had also been part of the 1585 voyage.

Detailed Condition: