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Qua solennitate Regina a Rege excipitur [By what ceremony the Queen is received by the King.]

Stock#: 97172
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1591
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 8.5 x 11 inches whole sheet
Price: \$ 495.00



Description:

Qua solennitate Regina a Rege excipitur, a captivating image engraved by Theodor De Bry and released in Frankfurt in 1591, captures an indigenous Floridian dance and is featured prominently within De Bry's renowned *Grands Voyages*. This original engraving emphasizes the ceremonial encounter of a queen with her king and elucidates the complex cultural rituals practiced by Florida's indigenous peoples during the late 16th century.

At the cusp of the 17th century, Europe's nascent encounters with the New World spurred not only an insatiable curiosity for the geography of these unfamiliar lands but also a fervent interest in its peoples, customs, and ways of life. De Bry, through his *Grands Voyages*, was instrumental in shaping European



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perceptions of the New World. His engravings, based on primary sources and firsthand accounts, served as windows into the lives, customs, and environments of indigenous populations.

This image portrays a distinct ceremony, focusing on the moment the queen meets the king. An elaborate wooden platform is erected for this purpose, with ample space for the dignitaries. The king, seated to the right of this stage, warmly welcomes the queen, positioned opposite him on the left, elucidating his reasons for choosing her as his primary wife. With a modest yet majestic demeanor, she responds, holding a fan, her expressions and gestures a testament to her nature-derived grace. Surrounding this central scene, young women form a circle, distinct in their attire, with bound hair flowing down their backs and wide belts adorned with ovular gold and silver patterns creating a sonorous rattle during their dances in praise of the king and queen. Their movements—synchronized lifting and lowering of limbs—highlight the cohesive harmony of their ritual. Both men and women showcase distinct ear piercings, wherein elongated fish bladders, inflated to resemble pearls and dyed a striking red, draw an uncanny resemblance to the faint hues of rubies.

The nuanced details in this engraving not only shed light on the sophisticated ceremonial practices of Florida's indigenous people but also attest to the meticulous observation and dedication with which De Bry approached his work. The intrigue of this piece lies not only in its representation of an exotic ritual to European audiences but also in its deeper, almost anthropological insights. This image, as with other works from *Grands Voyages*, stands as a testament to the interplay of exploration, representation, and cultural understanding in early modern Europe.

Detailed Condition:

Foxed.