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[Florida Native Americans] Mulierum, quarum maritivel in bello caesi, aut morbo sublati posulata a Rege. XVIII.

Stock#: 98052
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1591
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 6.5 x 8.5 inches
Price: \$ 395.00



Description:

The Widows of Florida Indian Warriors Seeking The Mercy of Their Chief

The view shows Indian warrior widows approaching the chief after a battle. Hiding their faces they petition the chief to avenge their husband's deaths, to provide for them in their widowhood, and to grant them permission to remarry after a period of mourning. Surviving warriors and Europeans are shown in the background.

The text translates as follows:



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Of those who have fallen in war, or have died from disease, their widows usually convene on that day which they deem most opportune for appealing to the King; approaching him with great sorrow and wailing, they sit on their heels, and covering their faces with their hands, they seek with loud cries and complaints, revenge for their deceased husbands from the King and aid by which they may endure life in widowhood, and that at a time fixed by law it may again be permitted for them to marry. The King, taking pity on them, grants their requests: they return home weeping and lamenting, as a sign of the love in which they held their husbands; after spending several days in this mourning, they go to the graves of their husbands, bringing their weapons and the cup from which they drank, they weep anew, and carry out other womanly ceremonies.

The engravings published by Theodor de Bry in his *Grand Voyages* (1591), based upon watercolor illustrations made by Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues, are the earliest known European depictions of Native Americans in what is now known as the United States. Le Moyne, a member of the short-lived French colony known as Fort Caroline founded by Huguenot explorer Rene Goulaine de Laudonniere (ca. 1529-1574), based the watercolors on his experiences in Florida in the 1560s. De Bry later published Le Moyne's work, along with other illustrations of the New World, as part of an effort to encourage European colonization in the Americas. Jacques le Moyne de Morgues, an illustrator and explorer, sailed with René de Laudonniere on the 1564 Huguenot expedition to Florida. Laudonniere set up Fort Caroline on the St. John's River in 1564, but the settlement was destroyed by the Spanish army under Pedro Menendez de Aviles.

Detailed Condition: