



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Vera effigies et delineatio Insulae Sanctae Helenae qua Ortum Occasium, et Septentrionem spectat . . .

Stock#: 21978
Map Maker: Van Linschoten
Date: 1596
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking set of Three views of St. Helena, engraved by Baptista van Doeticum for Linschoten's *Itinerario*.

A richly ornamented view of the Island of Saint Helena, the half way point across the Atlantic Ocean between Africa and South America.

St. Helena was discovered on May 21, 1502 by the Portuguese navigator João da Nova, on his voyage home from India. The Island is named after Helena of Constantinople. While popular myth holds that the Portuguese kept the location a secret until almost the end of the 16th century, both the was described as early as 1508 in a Dutch book that described a 1505 Portuguese expedition led by Francisco de Almeida from the East Indies. Lopo Homem-Reineis published the "*Atlas Universal*" about 1519 which showed the locations of both St Helena and Ascension.

Sometime before 1557, two slaves from Mozambique, one from Java, and two women, escaped from a ship and remained hidden on the island for many years, long enough for their numbers to rise to twenty. Bermudez, the Patriarch of Abyssinia landed at St Helena in 1557 on a voyage to Portugal, remaining on the island for a year. Three Japanese ambassadors on an embassy to the Pope also visited St Helena in 1583. Sir Francis Drake may also have located the island, which is believed to be how the location of the island was known to the English only a few years later, Thomas Cavendish arrived on the island in 1588, during his first attempt to circumnavigate the world and stayed for 12 days. Another English seaman, Captain Abraham Kendall, visited Saint Helena in 1591, and in 1593 Sir James Lancaster stopped at the island on his way home from the East.

Once St Helena's location was more widely known, English ships of war began to lie in wait in the area to



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attack Portuguese India carracks on their way home. As a result, in 1592 Philip II of Spain and I of Portugal (1527-1598) ordered the annual fleet returning from Goa on no account to touch at St Helena. Over time, St. Helena became less important to the Portugese and increasingly important to the Dutch, who finally claimed the island in 1633.

Detailed Condition:

Minor stain in upper right margin and a tiny bit of offsetting.