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Aethiopia Superior vel Interior vulgo Abissinorum sive Presbiteri Ioannis Imperium

Stock#: 29865lh
Map Maker: Jansson
Date: 1657 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition:
Size: 19.5 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An attractive map of Eastern Africa and the fictitious kingdom of Prester John.

The map shows a major section of central and eastern Africa including Mozambique north to present day Sudan. The map contains numerous rivers, villages and settlements throughout, and is highly embellished with elephants, ostriches and other animals within the map, as well as the decorative cartouche. The two Ptolemaic lakes of Zaire and Zaflan are in the lower portion of the map. Lake Niger, and the supposed course of the Niger River, is shown flowing westward.

This map is based on Ortelius' map of Prester John of 1573. The myth of Prester John, the good Christian King of Africa waging his own crusade and defeating the enemies of Christianity, was based upon earlier legends of the Crusaders and is a fascinating piece of early mythological cartographic history.

Fine old color example, with ENGLISH color, which is very rare on the market. From a composite atlas, with no text on the verso.

Detailed Condition:

Old ENGLISH Color. Trimmed at left and right margins, with partial loss of neat line toward the bottom of each side.