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[Scene of People in Traditional Portuguese Dress] Lusitana, templa noctu invisura, comitata marito et servis.

Stock#: 34963
Map Maker: Linschoten
Date: 1596
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 10 x 12.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An attractive 16th-century print of a couple in traditional Portuguese dress, followed by pike-men, with a dog in the foreground. The scene is based on Linschoten's direct eyewitness accounts during his residency in Portugal.

The engraving comes from the Linschoten's epic work *I tinerario, voyage, ofte Ship-vaert* (Amsterdam, 1596), inarguably the most influential book on Asia of its era. Jan Huygen van Linschoten (c.1563 - 1611) was a larger than life figure who was instrumental in encouraging the Netherlands to seek an empire in East Asia. Born in Haarlem, he was the son of a notary. While barely a teenager, he moved to Seville and then Lisbon with his brother. He evidently impressed the powers that be in the Portuguese capital, for he was appointed secretary to the Archbishop of Goa, serving in that capacity from 1583 to 1588. He made use of the extensive archives at Goa and interviewed mariners and explorers.

Linschoten returned to the Netherlands and wrote three books relating his knowledge of Asia, the third publication being the *Itinerario*, published in 1596 and translated into English and German two years later. Linschoten stole many Portuguese state secrets regarding navigation and trade in the East Indies, intelligence that was critical to the success of early Dutch endeavors in the region.

Detailed Condition: