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Descripcion Del Audiencia De Panama

Stock#: 36906
Map Maker: Herrera y Tordesillas
Date: 1601
Place: Madrid
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 11.5 x 8.5 inches inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare first edition of Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas' map of the Audiencia of Panama, from his *Descripcion de las Indias Occidentales*, published as part of his *Historia General*, in Madrid in 1601.

This rare 1601 map is the earliest printed Spanish map to depict Central America. The lack of detail in the interior reflects the Spanish policy of secrecy, which precluded the dissemination of geographical knowledge, a policy strictly and apparently affectively enforced, as prior to Herrera's work, no Spanish printer made any attempt to provide meaningful detail for this region.

Centered on Panama, the map provides coastal and river details of a region of historical significance as one of the primary gateways between the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean.

The first edition of Herrera's work is of the utmost rarity and the plates were never again used. The maps were copied in Amsterdam in 1622 and after but it would not be until 1726 before another Spanish edition of Herrera's work would include maps (a newly engraved set).

We are aware of only a single example of the map offered at auction in the past 30 years.

Detailed Condition:

Minor staining at bottom left and top right corners