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Tupinamba Indians observed by Hans Staden

Stock#: 38989
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1631
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 8 x 6.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine early engraving of the view showing the Tupinamba Indians observed by Hans Staden, which was published in Frankfurt, by Matthias Merian, as part of the continuation of De Bry's *Grand Voyages*.

Hans Staden (c. 1525 -1579) was a German explorer who voyaged to South America in the middle of the sixteenth century, where he was captured by the Tupinamba people of Brazil. He managed to survive and return safely to Europe. In his widely read account describing his travel and captivity, he claimed that the native people that held him captive practiced cannibalism.

Staden enlisted in 1547 on a ship that was bound for Brazil. He returned from this first trip in October 1548. In Seville, he enlisted for a second trip as a volunteer in an expedition for Río de la Plata which sailed in March, 1549. On reaching the mouth of the river, two ships sank in a storm. After vainly trying to build a barque, part of the shipwrecked crew set out overland for Asuncion. The rest of the crew, including



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Staden, sailed upon the third vessel for the island of São Vicente but were also wrecked. Staden with a few survivors, reached the continent in 1552.

A few weeks later, while engaged in a hunting expedition, Staden was captured by a party belonging to the Tupinambá people of Brazil, an enemy group of the Tupinikin people and their Portuguese allies. As Staden was part of a Portuguese crew, he was perceived of as an enemy and taken to a village (the predecessor of today's Ubatuba), where he claimed he was to be devoured at the next festivity. However, Staden claimed to have won the favor of the Tupinamba Chief Cunhambebe by translating between the Tupinamba and European traders, as well as predicting a Tupinikin attack on the tribe, thus his life was spared. Furthermore, when Staden later claimed to have cured the tribal king and his household from illness through the power of prayer and Christianity, the Tupinamba embraced him and called him "Scheraeire," meaning "Son, do not let me die." He finally made his escape on a French ship and on February 22, 1555, arrived at Honfleur, in Normandy, writing a narrative of his captivity in 1557, which was later republished in several languages by De Bry.

Detailed Condition: