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Virginiae Partis australis, et Floridae partis orientalis, interjacentiumque regionum Nova Descriptio

Stock#: 39673
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1640 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine old color example of Blaeu's map of the Southeast.

This map is based on the larger 1606 Mercator-Hondius map, but with significant improvements. The map covers an area from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay to Georgia and reflects the competing interests of France and England in the New World, with the coat of arms of each country identifying the regional control. As noted by Burden, the French claims are supported primarily by the French colonization efforts of the 1560s.

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The greatest improvement occurs in the northern half of the map north of Porto Royal. Whereas on the Hondius [map] the coastline towards C. de. Ste. Romano (present day Cape Fear) veered directly east, Blaeu more correctly takes it north-east, placing the cape closer to its true position of 34 degrees. This span of coastline is approximately that of present day South Carolina's. This now presents to us a more accurately proportioned Outer Banks region, radically reduced in size but still slightly too far north. For these improvements, Blaeu drew upon the extremely rare DE EYLANDEN . . . by Hessel Gerritsz., c. 1631. The Outer Banks combine the placenames of Gerritsz and Hondius, often using two different ones for the same area . . .

Chesapeake Bay was depicted just as a small bay on Hondius' map of 1606, as John Smith was



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yet to explore these waters. The Gerritsz terminated at this point, and only two placenames appeared. Blaeu draws largely on Smith's map for much of the nomenclature but introduces some English [names] from an unknown source. The most important is Newport News, founded in 1621 and apparently shown here for the first time on a printed map. Also new are Bermouth, Stortingem and Argilas . . .

Includes the marvelous mythical lakes in the interior and other conjectural cartography of the time. Large cartouche, 2 coats of arms, 2 compass roses and several sailing ships. Blaeu's map is nearly identical to Jansson's map. The easiest way to distinguish the two maps is by the erroneous longitudinal number 200 in the lower right corner on Blaeu's map. The correct number (300) appears on Jansson's map.

Detailed Condition:

Old Color. Minor toning, just outside the neat lines.