



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

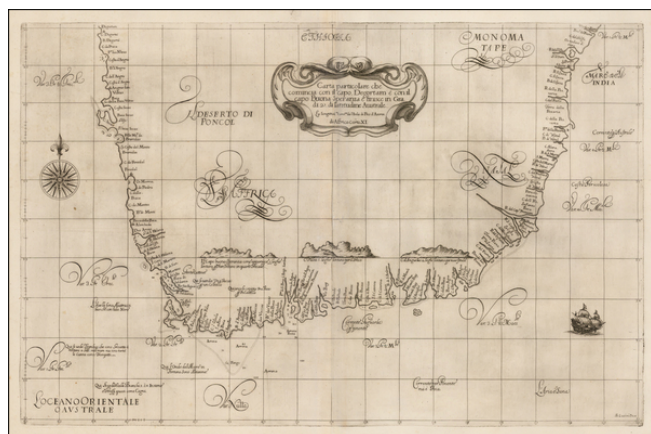
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[South Africa] Carta Particolare che Comincia con il Capo Degortam e con il Capo Buona Speranza e Finisce in Gradi 27 di Latitudine Austral

Stock#: 47585
Map Maker: Dudley
Date: 1646
Place: Florence
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29 x 19 inches
Price: \$4,500.00



Description:

Fine example of the first state of Robert Dudley's chart of the coast of South Africa, the earliest obtainable sea chart of South Africa.

As noted by Parry in *Printing & The Mind of Man*, "In the genre of sea charts it is Sir Robert Dudley (1573-1649) who made the greatest impression among the English cartographers of the seventeenth century, particularly in his charting of the East Indian archipelago . . . the first atlas to contain detailed charts of the whole East Indian and Philippine archipelagoes."

According to Suarez, Dudley's interest in the Far East began in his youth, and he backed Benjamin Wood's 1596 expedition to Southeast Asia which ended in a shipwreck on the Burmese coast. "A man of enormous talents, ranging from adventurer and explorer to scientist, mathematician, naval architect, navigator and cartographer," Dudley was the illegitimate son of the Earl of Leicester, the favorite of Elizabeth I and brother-in-law to Thomas Cavendish. In 1594 Dudley sailed with Sir Francis Drake to Guiana and Trinidad in search of El Dorado and two years later received a knighthood for his part in the Earl of Essex's raid on Cadiz.

Dudley eventually settled in Florence and in a naval capacity entered the service of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany. Dudley's *Arcano del Mare* was the first nautical atlas published by an Englishman and one of the most ambitious and beautiful cartographic works ever produced. The plates were engraved by Antonio Lucini, who claimed that twelve years and 5,000 pounds of copper were expended in the preparation of the plates. The resulting charts are among the most distinctive productions of early cartography.

Gorgeous compass rose and sailing ship.



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Detailed Condition: