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Castrum Mauritij Adripani Fluminis S. Francisci [Brazil]

Stock#: 5322
Map Maker: Ogilby
Date: 1671
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.5 x 11 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

In the late 1630s, Holland attempted to reassert its claim over Brazil by establishing a series of forts along the coastline. One of the best-documented colonies was the expedition led by Prince Maurits of Nassau, who attempted to assemble an intellectual court in the New World. He brought with him a group of highly accomplished artists, mapmakers, and scientists to record the mysteries of Brazil. They included the celebrated painter Frans Post, and the astronomer George Markgraf, who produced the first serious study of the southern sky. Post painted a wealth of images of the Brazilian landscape and the surrounding vegetation and wildlife. His works are some of the earliest European paintings of Brazil and were eagerly reproduced in print by Dutch engravers. This impressive view depicts Fort Maurice, which controlled the ferry on the Rio Francisco. It was built on a steep hill overlooking the river and was equipped with five bulwarks. First founded in 1637 with the arrival of Nassau's expedition, the fort housed over 541 men. This detailed engraving is inspired by a painting by Post executed in 1639. This view appeared in John Ogilby's seminal atlas *America: Being the Latest, and Most Accurate Description of the New World*, published in London in 1671. Ogilby's work is an English translation of Arnoldus Montanus' *Die Nieuwe en onbekende Weereld...*, published in Amsterdam, although greatly expanded in some instances and with new maps and views. A nice dark impression.

Detailed Condition: