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Paraguay o Prov. De Rio De La Plata cum regionibus adiacentibus Tucuman et Sta. Cruz De la Sierra

Stock#: 53523
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1640 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19.5 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Decorative Atlas Map of Central South America from the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography

Fine example of Blaeu's atlas map of Paraguay, the Rio de la Plata region, and the surrounding area.

The principal focus of this double-page map is the river system of Central South America, including the Paraguay, Paraná and Rio de la Plata Rivers. The waterways and coastlines are highlighted. The Andes, handsomely rendered on the left-hand side as shaded mountains with Lake Titicaca in their midst, also immediately draw the eye. The political boundaries of the region are lightly outlined.

The region's major European settlements, including Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santiago, Mendoza, Potosi, and Cusco are drawn as small, two-dimensional collections of buildings. Other towns, provinces, mountain ranges, and bodies of water are lettered in a handsome font. The Tropic of Capricorn bisects the map. This, combined with a balance of detail in all four quadrants, gives the map a pleasing symmetry.

Finely ornamented, the map includes embellished cartouches, an ornate compass rose, and a surfacing sea monster. In the upper righthand corner, the title cartouche has grape vines and tropical fruit peeking out from behind it, a nod to the agricultural produce of the region. Above the title, a scale gives distances in "*Milliaria Germanica communia*" and "*Milliaria Gallica communia*" or common German miles and common French miles, perhaps an indication that the map was intended for readers across Western Europe. A



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handsome, colored compass rose includes a north-pointing fleur-de-lis and an east-pointing cross *pattée*. In the bottom right-hand corner is the mapmaker's cartouche topped by an armillary sphere.

This map was included in volume two of Willem Blaeu's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, sive, Atlas novus* and would have introduced its Northern European readers to a relatively obscure part of the world. It is a fine example of the one of the great Dutch Golden Age mapmaker's work.

Detailed Condition: