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Mar Di Aethiopia Vulgo Oceanus Aethiopicus

Stock#: 60278
Map Maker: Jansson
Date: 1650
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 17.5 inches
Price: On Hold



Description:

Sailing the South Atlantic

Striking example of Jansson's sea chart of the South Atlantic, showing the coastlines of South America, Southwestern Africa, and an imagined Terra Australis.

The chart shows the proximity of Africa and South America. The ocean waters are criss-crossed with rhumb lines, which aid the navigator in setting a course. Both continents also have waterways marked, with Lake Zaire, the Amazon, and Rio de la Plata as the most notable features.

Tierra del Fuego is shown with a southward thrust, a misunderstanding of the connection of islands near Cape Horn to the larger archipelago. The southwest coast is still uncertain. To get to Cape Horn, ships would cross through the Strait of Le Maire, between Tierra del Fuego and Staten Land. The strait was named for the merchant Isaac Le Maire who financed the voyage led by his son, Jacob, and Willem Schouten that found the new route into the Pacific on their circumnavigation (1615-1617)

Another strait on the other side of Staten Land is named for Brouwer. As part of a Dutch West Indies Company expedition to Chile, Brouwer led a fleet from Recife, Brazil in 1643. The Company wanted to join a revolt already started by the Araucano Indians in an attempt to destabilize the Spanish hold on power. Brouwer had his fleet sail on an easterly route, discovering that Le Maire's Staten Land was insular.

Brouwer's Strait is proximate to the most arresting feature on this chart, the massive outline of *Terra Australis Incognita*. The shoreline is made of both solid coast and small islands and runs nearly the length



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of the chart.

Within the southern continent, the scale is accompanied by a pair of putti playing with surveying equipment while the hapless surveyor works nearby. In the upper left corner is an ornate, Orientalised cartouche featuring a turbaned map and an Indigenous man in a loincloth. It is topped by a hissing iguana.

Detailed Condition: