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Guineae Nova Descriptio

Stock#: 61354
Map Maker: Hondius
Date: 1610
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19.5 x 13.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Gorgeous antique map of the West African Coast from Rio Senego (Senegal) to Cape Lopez, just below the equator, and includes Guinea with parts of Benin and Lybia. The map features a detailed inset of St. Thomas.

The map reflects the Portuguese exploration and mapping of the region. The map is one of six new maps of Africa to be included in Hondius' first edition of Mercator's Atlas.

Published by esteemed cartographer Jodocus Hondius in the first quarter of the 17th century, the map provides an indispensable record of the western coast of Africa, specifically focusing on the stretch of land and sea from the Senegal River and Gambia down to the islands of Fernando Po and São Príncipe.

The area depicted in the map had long been the focus of Portuguese exploration and trade. The Senegal River, reached by Portuguese navigator Nuno Tristão in the early 1440s, was one of the important milestones for Portuguese endeavors further south. By the late 15th and early 16th centuries, the Portuguese had solidified their presence by establishing trading posts along this stretch, including key locations such as Cacheu in modern-day Guinea-Bissau. Trade in this region was primarily concerned with gold, ivory, spices, and the slave trade, with the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe serving as key transshipment points for the latter.

In the early 17th century, when Hondius created "Guineae Nova Descriptio," the Portuguese were still the dominant European power in this region, although Dutch and English competition had begun to escalate. The map itself, therefore, serves as a somewhat retrospective account of Portuguese influence, capturing key ports, river systems, and geographical demarcations before Dutch maritime power began to seriously



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erode Portuguese hegemony in the area.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color.