



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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### **Aethiopia Superior vel Interior vulgo Abissinorum sive Presbiteri Joannis Imperium**

**Stock#:** 6225  
**Map Maker:** Blaeu  
**Date:** 1635  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 19.5 x 15 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### **Description:**

An attractive map of the Eastern African and the fictitious kingdom of Prester John. The map shows a major section of central and eastern Africa including Mozambique north to present-day Sudan. The map contains numerous rivers, villages and settlements throughout, and is highly embellished with elephants, ostriches and other animals within the map, as well as the decorative cartouche. The two Ptolemaic lakes of Zaire and Zaflan are in the lower portion of the map. Lake Niger, and the supposed course of the Niger River, is shown flowing westward. This map is based on Ortelius' map of Prester John of 1573. The myth of Prester John, the good Christian King of Africa waging his own crusade defeating the enemies of Christianity, was in part a response to Mongol and Islamic pressures on Christian lands. The myth was based upon earlier legends of the Crusaders and is a fascinating piece of early mythological cartographic history. A fine example in old color from a French edition of Blaeu's atlas.

#### **Detailed Condition:**