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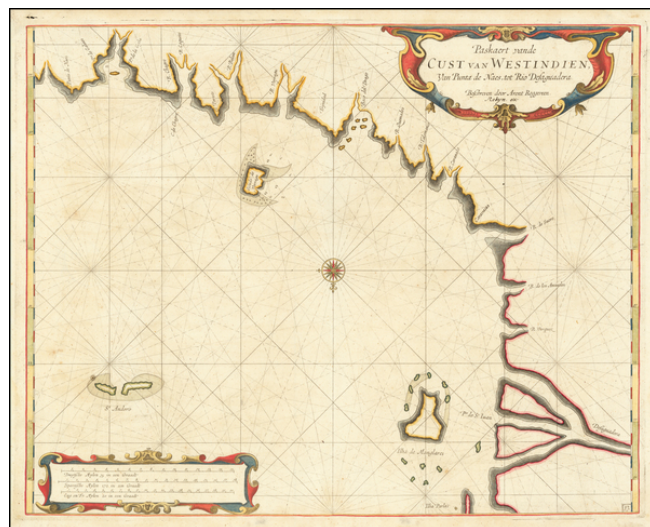
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Paskaerte vande Cust van Westindian van Punta de Naes, tot Rio Defaguadera.

Stock#: 63950
Map Maker: Roggeveen / Robijn
Date: 1698
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Extremely rare early sea chart of the Caribbean coast of Panama by Arent Roggeveen.

Panama Silver Trade and Piracy

The chart shows the coast of Panama toward the end of the golden age of the Spanish Silver Trade and Piracy in the region, centered on the Spanish trading port of Portobelo. Portobelo was colonized in 1597 by Spanish explorer Francisco Velarde y Mercado and quickly replaced Nombre de Dios as a Caribbean port for Peruvian silver. Legend has it that Christopher Columbus originally named the port "Puerto Bello", meaning "Beautiful Port", in 1502.

During the first quarter of the 17th century, trade between Spain and the isthmus remained undisturbed. At the same time, England, France, and the Netherlands, one or all almost constantly at war with Spain, began seizing colonies in the Caribbean. Such footholds in the West Indies encouraged the development of the buccaneers—English, French, Dutch, and Portuguese adventurers who preyed on Spanish shipping and ports with the tacit or open support of their governments. Because of their numbers and the closeness of their bases, the buccaneers were more effective against Spanish trade than the English had been during the previous century.

Henry Morgan, a buccaneer who had held Portobelo for ransom in 1668, returned to Panama with a stronger force at the end of 1670. On January 29, 1671, Morgan appeared at Panama City. With 1,400 men he defeated the garrison of 2,600 in a pitched battle outside the city, which he then looted. The officials



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and citizens fled, some to the country and others to Peru, having loaded their ships with the most important church and government funds and treasure. Panama City was destroyed by fire, probably from blown up powder stores, although the looters were blamed. After 4 weeks, Morgan left with 175 mule loads of loot and 600 prisoners. Two years later, a new city was founded at the location of the present-day capital and was heavily fortified.

The buccaneer activity rapidly declined after 1688 mainly because of changing European alliances. By this time Spain was chronically bankrupt; its population had fallen, and it suffered internal government mismanagement and corruption

Detailed Condition: