Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Nova Virginiae Tabula

Stock#: 65344
Map Maker: Hondius

Date: 1640 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19.5 x 15 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of Henricus Hondius' derivative of John Smith's highly important 1612 map of Virginia.

Hondius's map of the Chesapeake region was one of the first maps engraved by Henricus for his Atlantis Appendix of 1630. It is the only edition of the map where the Indian faces the Chesapeake. A nice example, with no text on the verso.

As noted by Burden, John Smith's map is "one of the most important printed maps of America ever published and certainly one of the greatest influence. It became the prototype for the area for half a century." Burden goes so far as to say that the map's publication considerably influenced the success of the Virginia Colony itself.

In 1606, the London Company sent its first ship to Virginia and established the Jamestown settlement. Captain John Smith accompanied the English settlers at Jamestown. Between 1607 and 1609, he explored the major rivers which flowed west into the Chesapeake Bay, recording the names of the Native American villages and tribes he encountered. The limits of Smith's explorations are marked with a Maltese cross. Beyond the crosses, Smith relied on Native American accounts to delineate territories further upriver. Smith notes on the map, "To the crosses hath bin discouerd what beyond is by relation."

Smith's depiction of the Native America villages and accounts of the region is one of the primary sources for information on the region in the early 17h Century. Burden notes that "to this day the map is still used by archaeologists to locate native Indian villages. It records 166 of them and is remarkably detailed." The illustrations of Powhatan's Council and Native are derived from the original drawings of John White.

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Upon Smith's return to England in 1609, Smith employed William Hole to engrave a map, which was first included in a small pamphlet by Joseph Barnes, of Oxford, in 1612. The map would not appear again for 12 years, when it was included, along with Smith's map of New England, in his landmark work, The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England and the Summer Isles, in 1624. The following year it was included in *Purchas His Pilgrimes*.

Smith's map was by far the most important map of Virginia published in the first part of the 17th century. First issued in 1612, it became the prototype map of the region until Augustine Hermann's map of 1673. The map depicts a number of explorations and observations of Smith and the Jamestown settlers. There is some question as to whether the map is the work of Smith, who led most of the explorations, or the surveyor accompanying him, Nathaniel Powell. However, convention attributes the map to John Smith as his name appears on it in two publications by him and in a third by Samuel Purchas, who credits Smith with the production of the map.

The map became the prototype for the mapping of the region for the next 60 years, being copied by a number of mapmakers until the 1670s.

Detailed Condition:
Old Color