



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Exacta & Accurata Delineatio cum Orarum Maritimarum tum etjam locorum terrestrium quae in Regionibus China, Cauchinchina, Camboja sive Champa, Syao, Malacca, Arracan & Pegu . . .

Stock#: 69972
Map Maker: Van Linschoten
Date: 1596
Place: Amsterdam
Color:
Condition: VG+
Size: 20.5 x 15 inches
Price: \$19,500.00



Description:

Linschoten's Important Regional Map of China and Southeast Asia

Splendid, ornate, sixteenth-century map of China, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, the Straits of Malacca, Borneo, Java, and Beach, engraved by Henricus Van Langren for Linschoten's influential *Itinerario*.

Oriented to the east, the map includes a detailed treatment of the region as it was then known. Marco Polo's Beach is to the far south. Beach was one of several southern islands that came to be associated with Terra Australis and the southern continent. Here, it is where Australia would be encountered by Dutch sailors in the seventeenth century. The fact that land existed in that area was already known to local networks of traders and fisherman.

China dominates the map from the bottom left corner, a round depiction with huge, interconnected lakes; these four lakes are based on a Chinese legend. There is a veritable menagerie ranging about, including a camel, giraffe, rhinoceros, and elephant. Lake Chiama, which was thought to be the source of the Ganges River, is peeking out of the lower frame of the map.

The map, particularly its islands, are drawn in a portolan style, which speaks to the Portuguese portolan sources that Linschoten accessed while serving the Bishop of Goa. This is the first published map of the area to be based on Portuguese sources, as the Portuguese usually kept their geographic knowledge under



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lock and key. Besides portolan charts, Linschoten also used the work of Plancius, Fernão Vaz Dourado, and Bartolomeu de Lasso (as evident in the strange orientation of Palawan).

Perhaps one of the most arresting details is the rotund, teardrop shaped island of Korea, located between Japan and China. Korea's status as a peninsula or an island was a topic of debate for European cartographers at this time. Indeed, Van Langren has hedged his bets here, including a sand bank that connects the island to mainland China. This nearly-circular depiction of Korea is unique in cartography; no other mapmakers are known to have adopted the model.

In addition to fascinating geography, the map is lavishly embellished with decorative details. In the upper right corner, framed by impressive strapwork, is a lengthy description of the geography at hand. More strapwork, including gargoyle faces, guard the scale bar and attributed of engraving to Henricus van Langren. A 32-point compass rose in the southern seas, as are two rather playful-looking sea monsters. More monsters and ships are spread throughout Maritime Southeast Asia, while a fierce sea battle takes place in the east, near another stunning compass rose.

Langren, Linschoten, and the *Itinerario*

This map was designed by Arnold Florent van Langren and engraved by his brother, Henricus in 1595. They were members of a prominent family of engravers. Along with their father, Jacob, the brothers also produced globes. The Van Langren family was granted a monopoly over globe production by the States General in 1592. In 1609, Arnold moved his family from Amsterdam to Antwerp, where his sons Jacob and Michael joined the business.

One of Arnold's most famous clients was Jan Huyghen van Linschoten (1563-1611). As a young man, Linschoten traveled the world as part of the Portuguese East Indies trade. In 1583, his brother secured him a position as the Secretary to the Archbishop of Goa, a Portuguese colony. While abroad, he kept a diary, and began collecting other travelers' diaries and accounts upon his return.

In 1594, Linschoten set out with Willem Barentsz on an exploratory expedition to find the Northeast Passage. The crew had many adventures, including an encounter with a polar bear, which they killed while attempting to capture it. Eventually, the crews had to turn back because of ice, a situation that also happened with a similar expedition the following year.

Upon his return, Linschoten published his journal from the Barentsz voyages. In 1595, he also published *Reysgheschrift vande navigation der Portugaloyzers in Orienten* (Travel Accounts of Portuguese



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Navigation in the Orient) based on his research. The work includes sailing directions in addition to descriptions of lands still new to Europeans, like Japan. In 1597, Linschoten published again, this time a description of the African coast.

His most famous work, however, is *Itinerario: Voyage ofte schipvaert van Jan Huyghen van Linschoten naer Oost ofte Portugaels Indien, 1579-1592* (Travel account of the voyage of the sailor Jan Huyghen van Linschoten to the Portugese East India). It was published in 1596 by Cornelis Claesz in Amsterdam. It was quickly translated into English (1598), German (1598), and French (1610). Latin editions appeared in Frankfurt in 1599 and Amsterdam in 1599.

Although Linschoten is known as the author of the *Itinerario*, he had a lot of help. Claesz convinced Linschoten to widen the project from his trip to Goa to include sailing directions and geographic descriptions, materials acquired through subterfuge from the Portuguese. The sailing directions proved important to the founding of the East India Company in 1602, as they revealed information previously kept clandestine by the Portuguese. Another person who played a role in the production of the book was Bernardus Paludanus, or Berent ten Broecke, who wrote the sections on Africa and America.

Claesz was also largely responsible for the addition of the maps. The first Amsterdam edition had a world map by Petrus Plancius, first published in 1594, and five detail maps, which were made by Arnold and his brother Henricus. This is one of the detail maps and is one of the most beautiful and influential maps of the region of the sixteenth century.

Detailed Condition: