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Nova Africae Tabula Auctore Jodoco Hondio

Stock#: 73166
Map Maker: Hondius
Date: 1610 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 15 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

Fine Map of Africa from the Mercator-Hondius Atlas

Nice example of Hondius' map of Africa, first issued in 1606.

The map was meant to be included in the Mercator-Hondius atlas alongside Gerard Mercator the Younger's 1595 continental map. Hondius' map improves upon Mercator's considerably, particularly in the outline of the North African coast and Madagascar. Cape Horn is more prominent, with the addition of Saldanha Bay and Cape Falco.

This is the first atlas map to show a new hydrography of the Congo River. It was adapted from the 1598 regional map of Central Africa by Filippo Pigafetta.

Hondius adopts Ortelius' model of the source of the Nile emanating from two large lakes in Central Africa. He rejects the model more recently used by Mercator, which had shown an extra southern branch of the Nile and smaller lakes. Like Mercator, however, Hondius includes a Nubian branch of the Nile. The Niger River configuration is also from Ortelius.

Beyond Ortelius, the coastal regions and toponyms are improved thanks to access to Linschoten's *Itinerario*. The map reflects Portuguese sources as well, as it includes the Portuguese discoveries on the Upper Zambezi and their interactions with Monomotapa in Southeast Africa.

In the waters surrounding the continent are several sailing ships. They should be wary of the sea monsters



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that are also in the seas. Many islands dot the ocean, including São Tomé and Príncipe, which are noted for their sugar, and St. Helena, an important stop-over on the route to the East Indies.

Monomotapa

In the south is the kingdom of Monomotapa. In the early fifteenth century, a prince of the Kingdom of Zimbabwe established his own seat of power called the Kingdom of Mutapa to the north. The kingdom expanded quickly, fed by the region's gold reserves and trade connectivity.

The Portuguese heard of the empire, which reached its peak in 1480, when they rounded the Horn at the end of the fifteenth century and began trading along the coasts of southern Africa. The Portuguese traders transliterated the word for ruler, *Mwenemutapa*, to *Monomotapa*, which was then used to describe the region on maps.

In the 1560s, the Portuguese Crown entered into direct relations with Mutapa; in 1569, King Sebastian gave a coat arms to the *Mwenemutapa*, the first grant of arms to a native southern African. However, this interaction was not characteristic of Portuguese-Mutapa relations, which were often combative as the Portuguese sought to take over the local gold reserves. These gold reserves were connected in European minds to the gold mines of King Solomon, ensuring Monomotapa an enduring place in the European geographic imagination.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning. Old color.