



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**Insula D. Helenae Sacra Coeli Clementia et Aequabilitate . . . / The Island of St. helena
full of Sweet and pleasaunt ayre fructfull ground and fresh water but not inhabited; a
good refreshing for those yt come out of east India it lyth under 16 degrees on the
South Syde of the equinoctiall lyne**

Stock#: 74023
Map Maker: Wolfe / Linschoten
Date: 1598
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19.5 x 14 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare English Edition!

Spectacular birds-eye view of the island of Santa Helena, which appeared in the rare English edition of Linschoten's *Itinerario, Iohn Huighen van Linschoten. His discours of voyages . . .*, published in London in 1598, and engraved by English engraver Raygnald Elstrak.

Linschoten served 6 years as the bookkeeper for the Archbishop of Goa (1583-89). While in Goa, as a result of his position, Linschoten had access to secret information, including the nautical maps that were well guarded for over a century. Misusing the trust in him, he began meticulously copying these maps. In 1587, the Archbishop of Goa died while on a trip to Lisbon to report to the King of Portugal, ending Linschoten's stay in Goa. He set sail for Lisbon in January, 1589, passing by the Portuguese supply depot at St. Helena island in May 1589.

Linschoten was "one of the pathfinders for the first Dutch voyages to the East" (Schilder, p. 195). He was in the service of the Portuguese as Secretary to the Portuguese Archbishop of Goa in India from 1583 to 1589. Here, he had access to many Portuguese portolans as well as other valuable commercial information, especially as Goa at this time was the commercial and political center for the Portugal Empire in the East. Van Linschoten left Goa for home in January 1589. On the way to Portugal, his ship was pursued by an English fleet and lost its cargo in a storm while anchored off the Azores. After the loss of



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Insula D. Helenae Sacra Coeli Clementia et Aequabilitate . . . / The Island of St. helena full of Sweet and pleasaunt ayre fructfull ground and fresh water but not inhabited; a good refreshing for those yt come out of east India it lyth under 16 degrees on the South Syde of the equinoctiall lyne

the cargo, Van Linschoten was persuaded to stay and help recover it; he spent two years on Tercera, working and preparing his notes from Goa. Van Linschoten eventually arrived in Lisbon early in 1592, and then sailed home to The Netherlands. His account of his experiences is one of the most important travel works of the period.

Wolfe, Linschoten, and the *Itinerario*

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 Portugaloysers in Orienten* (Travel Accounts of Portuguese 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 Portuguese East India). It was published in 1596 by Cornelis Claesz in Amsterdam.

Two years later, in 1598, John Wolfe published an English translation, with entirely newly maps engraved in London by Robert Becket, Raynald Elstrak, William Rogers. The 11 maps includes several maps not drawn from the original Linschoten *Itinerario*, including a World Map after Ortelius, two maps of Africa drawn from Pigafetta, and an English copy of the first state of the Plancius Spice map.

Rarity

The Wolfe edition of Linschoten's work is very rare on the market, as are the individual maps.

Detailed Condition: