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Africae nova Tabula . . . 1631

Stock#: 74486
Map Maker: Hondius
Date: 1631
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 15 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

Decorative example of Jansson's edition of this highly decorative map of Africa. The map is richly embellished both inside and outside the map with a number of indigenous animals, seven sailing vessels, six flying fish, four sea monsters, and, in the lower left, Neptune embraces a mermaid.

This remarkable map of Africa was originally published in 1619 as a separate map in a set of four continent maps by Jodocus Hondius Jr. (1593-1629). Jodocus drew his map from the earlier work of his father, Jodocus Hondius (1563-1612), who mapped Africa in 1606 with a border of town views top and bottom and five pairs of Africans on either side.

In 1631, it was reissued by Jodocus's brother, Henricus Hondius (1597-1651), as part of his folio atlas without the large decorative border. The copperplates of the map continued to be held within the family and were used by Jodocus's brother-in-law, Johannes Janssonius (Jan Jansson), in his *Atlas Novus* published from 1646-1657. This is the fifth state of the map with Jansson's imprint at the bottom right and Latin text on the verso.

While the general geography for this map is taken from Willem Blaeu's wall map of 1608 and his 1617 folio map, this example represents a considerable advance in the detail and accuracy of Africa from Hondius' prior maps. Geographical improvements include a more rounded southern Cape, the naming of the Rio de Spiritu Santo and of the Cuama River, the insertion of Zimbaos and alteration in the shape of Madagascar. The Kingdom of Monomotapa fills the entire southern tip of Africa. However, the map is also filled with fictitious rivers and mountains and shows the origin of the Nile conforming to the Ptolemaic tradition of twin lakes located below the equator, as is typical of 17th Century cartography.



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Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling.