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Duche et Gouvernement De Bretagne . . . 1650

Stock#: 75940
Map Maker: Sanson
Date: 1650
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 14.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Decorative early regional map of Brittany, with two elaborate cartouches and attractive hand-coloring. This map, by the important French cartographer Nicolas Sanson, shows, in detail, the Breton peninsula in western France.

Detail on this map is extensive, with many forests, towns, rivers, marshes, and more all shown on land. Offshore detail is equally well developed, with islands, rocks, and dangerous sandbanks marked. Sanson's maps are renowned for their accuracy and the number of features they show, and they are some of the earliest regional maps of France to be published in France with such high quality.

Brittany is now known as a culturally distinct part of France renowned for its crepes, but during the mid-17th century it was a center of French trade and power. Brittany had only been absorbed into France 120 years prior to the making of this map during the reign of Francis I. Exemptions on certain taxes as well as its location on major seaways led to prosperity during the growth of the French colonial empire. By the 18th century, the importance of the Breton economy would decline due to a series of rebellions and a focus of the central government on increased industrialization.

This map is dedicated to Armand de Cambout, the first Duke of Coislin. Held in high regard by Louis XIV, he was a member of the Academie Francaise at 16 and later the lieutenant-general of Lower Brittany for the French army.

Detailed Condition:

Old color. Minor offsetting. Trimmed at or close to neatline and mounted on a sheet of contemporary



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paper (when included in an early composite atlas).