



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

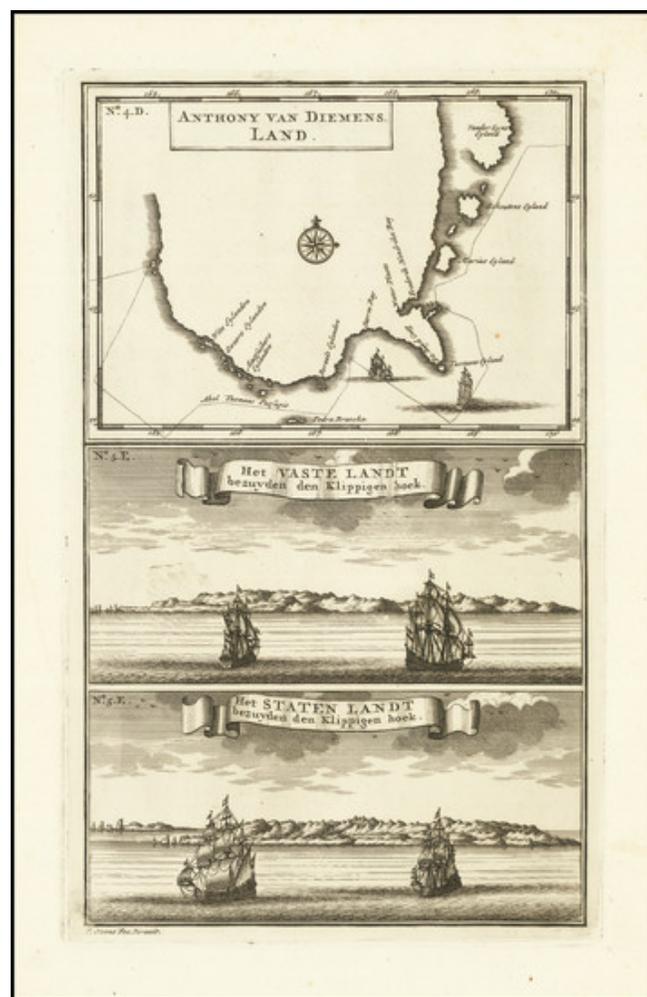
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(Tasmania) Anthony Van Diemens Land [on sheet with] Het 'Vaste Landt bezuyden den Klippigen hoek [and] Het Staten Landt bezuyden den Klippigen hoek.

Stock#: 77736
Map Maker: Valentijn
Date: 1724
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 7 x 11.5 inches
Price: \$ 575.00



Description:

From An Important Text in the History of Tasmanian Mapping

A fine early map of Tasmania, showing the routes of Abel Janszoon Tasman, the first European to reach the island. Alongside the map are two views of the high cliffs and rocks that define the Tasmanian coastline. This map first appeared in Francois Valentijn's *Oud en nieuw Oost-Indien*, a travel guide to the East Indies that included the first printed European portrayal of Maori Indians and the first printed view of Tasmania's New Zealand coastline.



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Tasman's arrival to the island occurred far before the publication of this map, in 1642. He had skirted around the southern end of Tasmania, proving that it was not, in fact, part of the southern continent he had been sent to search. However, his voyage was commissioned by the Dutch East India Company (the VOC), thus his sketches and maps remained proprietary information that was not distributed in full until Valentijn gained access to the archives.

Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien

After spending sixteen years in the East Indies over the course of several voyages, Valentijn returned to his native Dordrecht. There, he finished his history of the East Indies, *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. The book was divided in five parts spread over eight volumes. It had over a thousand illustrations, including some of the most accurate maps of the region published to that date.

For the text, Valentijn borrowed heavily from contemporary works. To create such detailed maps and descriptions, Valentijn most likely also had access to the VOC's archives. These archives were closely watched and very few scholars or officials gained entry, particularly if they were likely to publish the contents of the repository. Indeed, Valentijn was lucky to see his work published at all.

Today, Valentijn's work is regarded as a veritable encyclopedia on maritime Asia. It is considered a useful collection of sources, from the eighteenth century and earlier, drawn from the VOC and personal papers. Some of his maps, particularly those of Australia, are drawn from manuscript sources now lost, making his history the lone surviving record of endangered knowledge.

Detailed Condition: