



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Virginiae Item et Floridae Americae Provinciarum, nova Descriptio

Stock#: 78407
Map Maker: Hondius
Date: 1634 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 13.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Hondius Composite Map of Virginia, Responsible for Perpetuating Misconceptions for a Century and a Half

Fine example of Jodocus Hondius's important map of Virginia and the Carolinas, from the Mercator-Hondius Atlas *Sive Cosmographie* . . .

Hondius utilized John White's map of Virginia and Jacques Le Moyne's map of Florida to create what is basically a composite of these two important late 16th-century Virginia maps. The map had a profound impact on the mapping of the region for much of the 17th century and became the prototype map for the region until the Ogilby-Moxon "Description of Carolina" ca. 1672.

Details based on Le Moyne include the gold-bearing mountains of "Apalatcy," the lake fed by the great waterfall, the lake with the unseen shore, Lake Sarrope, the French names for the rivers, and the location for the French fort at Port Royal.

In addition to creating a composite, Hondius does contribute some new information. The large lake with the opposite shore invisible, which in Le Moyne lies in a southwesterly direction from the mouth of the River May, having been moved northward to the foothills of the Apalatcy Montes. This makes the River May flow in a southeasterly direction instead of in the A-shaped course given by Le Moyne. This reflects the additional sources used in the making of the map, including Mercator's World map of 1569, the second edition of Ortelius' map of America (1584), and Wytfliet's map of the Southeast, first issued in 1597, in which the river Sola flows in a southeasterly direction from the mountains.



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According to Cummings, the River May is Le Moyne's name for St. Johns River in Florida, on which Fort Caroline was built. By putting the lake and the direction of the River May to the northwest of its mouth, and changing the accompanying topographical features and Indian settlements, Hondius created geographical misconceptions of the region, which lasted for nearly 150 years. He also moved the latitude of the mouth of the River May from 29°30' N.L. (St. Johns is 30°25') to 31°20'. This is actually the latitude of the Altamaha in Georgia, the first river above Florida which has its source in the Appalachian range. These factors undoubtedly encouraged the continuance of erroneous beliefs in the minds of subsequent explorers and cartographers. St. Marys River, which lies between St. Johns and the Altamaha, rises in the Okefenokee Swamp. Some writers think that the River May is the St. Marys River and that the great lake is the Okefenokee Swamp.

A turkey and wild other game are engraved, along with sea monsters, an indigenous canoe, sailing ships, and other attractive decorative elements. The map includes two cartouches and two insets of Floridian and Virginian cities.

Editions

The presented issue dates from the 1634 Dutch edition.

Detailed Condition:

Seethrough to text on verso.