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Fessae, et Marocchi Regna Africae Celeberr. describebat Abrah. Ortelius. 1595 [with large inset of West Africa]

Stock#: 79518
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1609
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Good
Size: 20 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking full-color example of Ortelius' map of the Kingdoms of Fez and Morocco, from Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas of the world. The map shows the region from Taroudant in central Morocco through Marrakesh and into northernmost Morocco and southern Spain. The Canaries are visible in the lower left of the map.

The map includes a fabulous large cartouche, a number of sailing ships, and various sea monsters. A fabulous cartouche of West Africa appears in the upper left, entitled *Congi Regni Christiani, in Africa, Nova Descriptio.*

Sources

This map was compiled by Ortelius from a variety of sources, including Sanuto's 1588 Africa atlas and the 1564 Gastaldi wall map of Africa. The inset map of West Africa follows Pigafetta's map of the Congo from 1591.

The Pigafetta map of the Congo was significant for its revolutionary rejection of the Ptolemaic depiction of the interior Africa, one that was then still followed by cartographers (including Ortelius). Pigafetta disputed the traditional Ptolemaic geography of twin lakes on the same latitude near the Mountains of the Moon as the source of the Nile River. Rather, Pigafetta shows two lakes in central Africa, one above the other. The southern one feeds the Zambezi and the Limpopo. The northern lake feeds the Nile and Zaire Rivers. The northern lake is at and north of the equator, as opposed to farther south as Ptolemy placed his



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lakes. This map is without question the most important modern map of Africa published in the 16th century.

Sanuto's and Gastaldi's works were equally monumental in the 16th-century cartographic history of Africa. Sanuto's Africa Atlas, in reality, the only completed part of his *Geografia*, was one of the most referenced contemporary texts on Africa for at least one hundred years after its publication. Sanuto's maps of Africa compile from many sources and display an acute critical sense. His maps further show innovation in the reconciliation of a well-known coastline with interior topographical information that draws from several thousand years of at-times conflicting literary knowledge.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color with associated oxidation degradation of paper, particularly in northern Morocco. Backed on the verso on the left side (right of the recto). Latin text on verso, from the 1609/12 edition.