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Norumbega et Virginia 1597

Stock#: 80127mj
Map Maker: Wytfliet

Date: 1597
Place: Louvain
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 11.5 x 9.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the Earliest Printed Maps of the East Coast of the United States.

First state of Cornelis van Wytfliet's *Norumbega et Virginia*, the highly important map of the Atlantic Seaboard of North America from the first atlas to focus on the Mapping of the New World.

The map embraces the eastern coastline of North America, from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to Cape Breton Island. It is from the first edition of Wytfliet's *Descriptionis Ptolemaicae Augmentum*, a pioneering work that set a precedent for the geographic descriptions and atlases of the Americas that followed.

Wytfliet's map is a highly important record of European knowledge of the region immediately prior to the English voyages of discovery and settlement in Virginia and New England and Champlain's French expeditions to eastern Canada. In addition to the Dutch voyages to the Mid-Atlantic region, the knowledge and cartographic depiction of the region would change radically over the next 30 years.

Wytfliet's map is the most accurate depiction of the region prior to Joannes de Laet's map, *Nova Anglia, Novvm Belgivm Et Virginia* (1630). It is the second appearance of the name Virginia in the title of a printed map, following Theodor De Bry's publication of John White's map of 1590. The most notable anomaly is the depiction of the mid-Atlantic coastal region approximately 5 degrees north of its actual location, placing the Chesipooc Sinus (Chesapeake Bay) far north of its actual location, an error also present in De Jode's 1593, *Americae Pars Borealis*. The map pre-dates the appearance of Long Island or the Hudson River. The source of the error probably derives from White's map of 1590.

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The origin of the name Norumbega is controversial. The term apparently was an Indian name for a river. Jacques Cartier in 1534, brought back from the Montreal area what he thought were diamonds, later found to be worthless crystals. This may have contributed to the idea of Norumbega as a rich realm worth finding. Gerard Mercator in 1569 showed Norumbega as a place of importance as a fortified capital bristling with towers, near the Bay of Fundy. From 1604 to 1607, Champlain searched the northern coasts for Norumbega, without success. His map of 1612 gave that name to an insignificant Indian village at the mouth of the Penobscot and thereon the name began dropping off the map.

States of the Map

This example is Burden's second of three. The states are as follows:

1. With "1597" in the title cartouche and latitude "39" incorrectly labeled "30". (1597)
2. "1597" erased from the title cartouche, but with the latitude unchanged. (1607-1611)
3. With the latitude label corrected to "39". (1611)

Detailed Condition: