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Africae nova Tabula . . . 1623

Stock#: 80431
Map Maker: Hondius / Jansson

Date: 1623
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Good
Size: 22 x 18 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare First State! -- Carte-a-Figures Map of Africa From the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography

Decorative example of the Hondius-Jansson map of Africa, with rare early set of views across the bottom.

This remarkable map of Africa was originally offered as a separately published map by Jodocus Hondius in 1606. In 1623, it was re-issued on with an entirely new copperplate engraving, on slightly smaller scale with the costumed figures reversed and with the addition of a second cartouche at the lower left, surmounted by a clock and including an attribution to its new publisher, Joannis Janssonii (Jan Jansson).

This highly decorative map represents a considerable advance in the detail and accuracy of Africa from Hondius' and Ortelius' prior maps, including a more rounded southern Cape, the naming of the Rio de Spiritu Santo and the naming of the Cuamo River and insertion of Zimbaos.

The map includes 10 sets of costumed figures, representing the indigenous peoples of Africa and six city views along the top. The map is filled with fictitious rivers and mountains with the origin of the Nile conforming to the Ptolemaic tradition of twin lakes located below the equator. The Kingdom of Monomotapa fills the entire southern tip of Africa. Ships under full sail, flying fish and various sea monsters decorate the sea, while elephants, lions, zebras, ostriches and other exotic animals occupy the interior. Jansson's unusual imprint cartouche features a clock with Roman numerals and a bell on top.

The face of the clock is a skull surrounded by the rays of the sun.

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Rarity

This first state of the map is very rare with all 4 sets of decorative panels top and bottom. This is the first example we have offered for sale.

In later editions, the the lower set of 6 views was removed.

Detailed Condition:
Right and top margin extended for framing. Restoration along the printed image on the right side, including expert facsimile (about 1/2 inch) into printed image. Bottom right figures (Bonae Spei ...) added in facsimile.