Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

India Orientalis et Insulae Adiecentes

Stock#: 80475
Map Maker: Merian

Date: 1640 circa
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 11 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Southeast Asia with an Early Depiction of Northwestern Australia Based on Gerrit Frederikszoon de Witt's Discoveries in 1628

This is a scarce decorative map of Southeast Asia, China, India, the Philippines, and western Oceania. Perhaps the most interesting feature are the newly discovered regions of northern Australia. The map is based upon the Blaeus' map of the same period.

In addition to the Australian coastline, the map provides fine early detail throughout the map, although the landmasses are considerably enlarged in scale relative to their actual sizes. This makes for easy reading, but biases the interpretation and positioning of islands and other features on the map.

Detail is extensive throughout East Asia with many rivers, cities, mountain ranges, and more all shown. Large lakes feed the many rivers of the southeastern part of the continent. The East Indies are well mapped, and to the north, Korea is marked as an island.

1628 Discoveries In Western Australia

The map is among the earliest to show the discoveries along the northwest coastline of Australia by the Dutch ship *Vyanen,* in 1628. The *Vyanen* departed Texel bound for Jakarta in March 1627, arriving via the Cape of Good hope on October 8, 1627. On January 6, 1628, the ship departed Jakarta as part of a fleet of seven ships bound for Europe under the command of the outgoing Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, Pieter de Carpentier. Just as the fleet was leaving, however, valuable cargo arrived from China, so

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the *Vyanen* was held back to be loaded. She was then sent to catch up with the main fleet, but had been loaded too hastily, and had to return to port to have her load balanced by the addition of 5000 ingots of copper.

When the *Vyanen* finally departed again on January 20, 1628, the monsoon season had set in, preventing her from taking the usual route through the Sunda Strait. Instead, the captain, Gerrit Frederikszoon de Witt, was ordered to set a course through the Strait of Balamban. Strong headwinds then drove the ship so far south that she ran aground in the vicinity of Barrow Island on the northwest coast of Australia. De Witt eventually succeeded in freeing the ship by offloading its cargo. He then followed the coast south-westwards as far as the Montebello Islands, Barrow Island, and the coastal reefs to the south. His sighting of the coast to the east of the Montebello Islands was a new discovery.

Hessel Gerritsz' map of 1628 shows this discovery under the name 'G.F. de Wits Landt'. On returning north, de Witt charted the northwest coast about as far as the present-day location of Port Hedland. The crew also sighted Indigenous Australians in the vicinity of present-day Roebourne; this is believed to be the first European sighting of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia.

The map also shows the earlier discoveries in this region by Dirk Hartog in 1616. Hartog located the area of Shark Bay and became the first European to set foot on Western Australia when he landed on what is now known as Dirk Hartog Island. He thereafter explored the coastline to the north along the coast of what is called T Landt Van Deendracht on Merian's map.

Farther to the northwest of Australia the Dutch discoveries along the North West Cape and the Gulf of Carpenteria are shown.

Detailed Condition: