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Africae Nova Descr. Austore Petro Kaerio . . . 1614

Stock#: 80700
Map Maker: van den Keere
Date: 1614
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Good
Size: 22 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

First State of Pieter van den Keere's Carte-a-Figures Masterwork

Rare first state of van den Keere's sought after decorative map of Africa, published in Amsterdam in 1614.

This first state of van den Keere's map of Africa is one of the earliest of the Carte-a-figures maps of Africa. While the copperplate would be acquired by Claes Jansz Visscher and re-issued in later decades, only this first state includes the title carouche with 2 cherubs. All later states incorporate a crocodile with an indigenous African on its back and remove the sailing ship west of the Cape of Good Hope.

The map relies upon the most recent advances in the cartographic depiction of Africa, particularly in the outline of the North African coast and Madagascar. Cape Horn is more prominent, with the addition of Saldanha and Cape Falco. The map also adopts the newest hydrography of the Congo River, drawn from the 1598 regional map of Central Africa by Filippo Pigafetta.

The map follows Ortelius' model of the source of the Nile emanating from two large lakes in Central Africa, rejecting the model more recently used by Mercator, which had shown an extra southern branch of the Nile and smaller lakes. Like Mercator, however, the map includes a Nubian branch of the Nile. The Niger River configuration is also from Ortelius.

Beyond Ortelius, the coastal regions and toponyms are improved thanks to access to Linschoten's Itinerario. The map reflects Portuguese sources as well, as it includes the Portuguese discoveries on the



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Upper Zambezi and their interactions with Monomotapa in Southeast Africa.

In the waters surrounding the continent are several sailing ships. They should be wary of the sea monsters that are also in the seas. Many islands dot the ocean, including São Tomé and Príncipe, which are noted for their sugar, and St. Helena, an important stop-over on the route to the East Indies.

Monomotapa

The kingdom of Monomotapa is shown in the south. In the early fifteenth century, a prince of the Kingdom of Zimbabwe established his own seat of power called the Kingdom of Mutapa to the north. The kingdom expanded quickly, fed by the region's gold reserves and trade connectivity.

The Portuguese heard of the empire, which reached its peak in 1480, when they rounded the Horn at the end of the fifteenth century and began trading along the coasts of southern Africa. The Portuguese traders transliterated the word for ruler, Mwenemutapa, to Monomotapa, which was then used to describe the region on maps.

In the 1560s, the Portuguese Crown entered into direct relations with Mutapa; in 1569, King Sebastian gave a coat of arms to the Mwenemutapa, the first grant of arms to a native southern African. However, this interaction was not characteristic of Portuguese-Mutapa relations, which were often combative as the Portuguese sought to take over the local gold reserves. These gold reserves were connected in European minds to the gold mines of King Solomon, ensuring Monomotapa an enduring place in the European geographic imagination.

States of the Map and Rarity

Schilder records five examples of the first state: University of Berlin State Library, Regensburg Library, Library of Congress and 2 in a private French collection.

Detailed Condition:

Fine original color, retouched at the time of restoration. Cherub at left of cartouche has been redrawn in facsimile. Left and right margins trimmed to and into the neat line, with very minor loss, mostly at lower left and right corners. Evidence of old folds.