Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

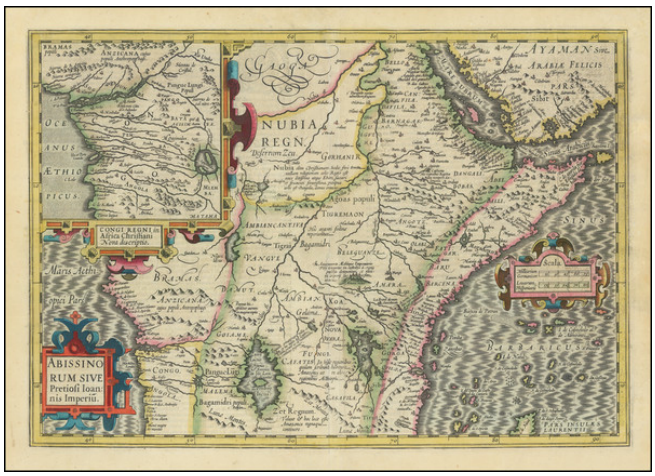
(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Kingdom of Prester John] Abissinorum Sive Pretiosi Joan:is Imperiu.

Stock#: 85191
Map Maker: Hondius

Date: 1620
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 13.5 inches

Price: Not Available



Description:

Mapping The Cartographic Myths of Africa -- The Kingdom of Prester John and Source of the Nile

Finely executed map of the central portions of Africa by the prominent Dutch cartographer, Jodocus Hondius.

Hondius' map offers a captivating glimpse into the late 16th and early 17th century understanding of Africa. Crafted with Hondius's characteristic combination of precision and artistic flair, the map offers a fascinating blend of known geographical features, conjecture, and myth, emblematic of the era of exploration in which it was created.

This impressive map is centered around the Kingdom of Prester John, the mythical Christian King and Priest, believed by Europeans to rule over a vast realm in the heartlands of Africa. It reflects the fascination of the period with the legends of Prester John, offering tantalizing hints of the wonders of his empire, in a world where fantasy and reality were still closely intertwined on the geographical stage.

One of the map's most noteworthy features is its depiction of the Nile, which is shown as ending in two large lakes in the southern part of Africa. This representation mirrors the Ptolemaic tradition, perpetuated in maps of Africa into the 17th century, which imagined the Nile's sources as two lakes aligned east to west. While we now know this to be geographically incorrect, this depiction is a significant testament to the prevailing knowledge and theories of the time.

The map also sheds light on the exploration of Africa in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. It

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delineates the known coastal regions with relative accuracy, reflecting the information gathered by European explorers who had navigated around the African continent. However, the map also reveals the limits of European exploration at the time, with the interior of the continent largely speculative and filled with mythical beasts, mountains, and rivers.

Detailed Condition: