



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

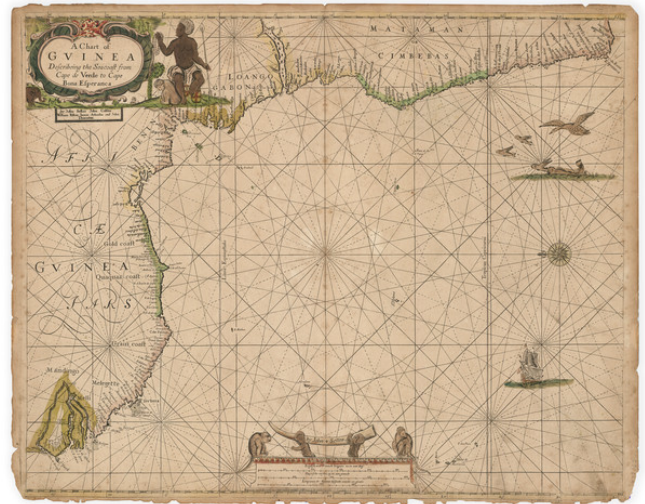
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[West Africa] A Chart of Guinea Describing the Seacoast from Cape de Verde to Cape Bona Esperanca

Stock#: 92062
Map Maker: Seller
Date: 1677 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 17 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

The First English Sea Chart of West Africa

Second state of John Seller's extremely rare English sea chart of the Western Coast of Africa, first published by Seller in about 1675.

The chart was originally produced a part of Seller's effort to publish an *East India Pilot*, intended as a guide for English mariners for the route round the Cape of Good Hope to the East Indies, which was to be the Third Book of Seller's *English Pilot*. While text and some charts for the *East India Pilot* were published, it was never formally issued as a separate book by Seller in the 1670s.

Seller was able to use the chart in his *Atlas Maritimus*, a one-volume work, but was not able to complete his third (East Indies) and fourth (America) books. Running desperately low on funds, he enlisted the financial support of William Fisher, John Colson, James Atkinson and John Thornton, but it was not sufficient to keep the project afloat.

The second state of this chart bears the imprint of Seller and his collaborators below the title cartouche. The first state only notes John Seller's name in the scale of miles.

The English first became involved in the west coast of Africa trade in the 1650s, when they established a trading post at the island of Goree, off the coast of Senegal. The island was strategically located near the mouth of the River Gambia, and offered a secure base for the English to trade with the local African



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kingdoms. The English quickly became established as a major player in the trade, and over the next few decades, they expanded their network of trading posts along the coast, as far south as modern-day Ghana.

The trade in goods such as gold and ivory was extremely profitable, and the English soon found themselves competing with other European powers, such as the Portuguese and the Dutch, for control of these resources. The English had a distinct advantage, however, as their ships were better equipped to navigate the treacherous waters along the coast, and their naval force was increasingly more powerful than that of their rivals. This would ultimately allow them to establish a dominant position in the trade, and to control the flow of goods from Africa to Europe and later slaves to America and the Caribbean.

States of the Map

- State 1: (1675): John Seller imprint
- State 2: (1677): John Seller John Colson | William Fisher, James Atkinson and John | Thornton

Rarity

The map is very rare on the market.

We note one example offered by Dominic Winter in 2007 at auction and 1 example offered by Susanna Fisher in a dealer catalog in 1989.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning and marginal chipping