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Aphrica

Stock#: 95659
Map Maker: Quad / Bussemachaer
Date: 1600
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 12 x 8.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Aphrica, an early 17th-century map of the African continent, was produced by Johann Bussemacher in Cologne in 1600 under the supervision of the renowned German cartographer Matthias Quad. Drawing inspiration from the Mercator world map of 1569 and subsequent Mercator Africa map of 1595, this map integrates both the geographical accuracy of its time and subtle adaptations.

The onset of the 17th century heralded a defining phase in cartographic history. As European powers expanded their maritime explorations, the demand for precise and detailed maps surged. Within this milieu, the city of Cologne emerged as a vital nexus for cartographers, engravers, and geographers, and talents like Quad took the lead in crafting intricate geographical works. Despite facing potential challenges because of his Protestant faith, Quad's cartographic contributions, occasionally under pseudonyms, reflect the period's complex intersection of faith, science, and artistry.

This map's revised depiction of Madagascar sets it apart from previous works. This and other adjustments highlight the iterative approach to map-making, where cartographers built on previous works while pushing for enhanced precision and clarity.

The mysterious southern lake, a geographical entity of enduring debate during the era, is depicted as the origin for several of the continent's major rivers, including the Zaire Rio (Congo), the rivers flowing into the Indian Ocean, and even the Nile.

Although *Aphrica* made its debut in Quad's *Geographisch Handtbuch* of 1600, other works of the period, such as Quad's *Fasciculus Geographus* of 1608 and Giovanni Botero's *Allgemeine Historische*



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Weltbeschreibung of 1611, also featured it. Interestingly, an earlier claim regarding the map's presence in Quad's 1596 travel book, *Europae totius terrarum orbis...*, remains unverified.

Detailed Condition: