



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

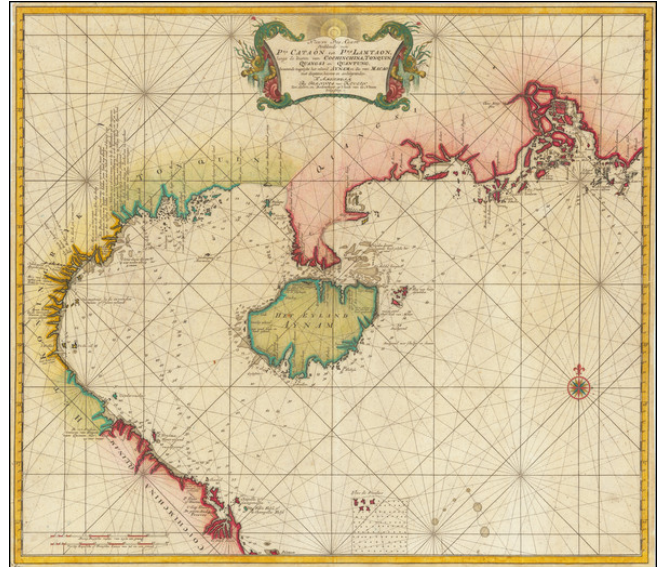
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Hong Kong / Canton] Nieuwe Pas=Caart Strekkende van Pta Cataon tot Pta Lamtaon langs de kusten von Cochinchina, Tonquin, Quangsi en Quantung bewattende insgelyks het eiland Aynam en die van Macao met dieptens, havens en ankergronden . . .

Stock#: 66695
Map Maker: Van Keulen
Date: 1753
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22.5 x 20 inches
Price: \$ 13,500.00



Description:

Canton, Macao & the Area Around Hong Kong - The VOC Secret Atlas

Striking, detailed chart of the area stretching from Canton and Macao to Cochinchina, which today is Vietnam.

This chart was made for and used by the Dutch East India Company (VOC), who dominated European trade with Southeast and East Asia in the seventeenth century. It appeared in volume VI (1753) of Johannes II Van Keulen's *Zee-Fakkel*, the so called "secret atlas" of the VOC.

The chart traces the coastline around the island of Hainan, here Aynam. There is much information here vital for the navigator on dangerous or unknown shores. There are sounding depths, sailing directions, navigational obstructions, sandbars, and rhumb lines.

This area was especially important for the Dutch, and all Europeans, as Macao and Canton were some of the only access points for Europeans to Chinese trade. These waters were also patrolled by pirates and other hostile Europeans rivals, making charts of the area particularly valuable.

The Secret Atlas



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The Portuguese were the first Europeans to gain power in the East Indies, trading for spices in the Moluccas and controlling the spice market in Europe. The Dutch wanted in on the lucrative trade. In 1602, rich merchants formed the Dutch East India Company after sending several reconnaissance voyages to establish trade.

Managing the geographic information surrounding the East India route became a priority for the new company. They appointed official hydrographers who were supposed to update and issues charts to captains. They also established hydrographic offices in Amsterdam and Batavia.

During their first 150 years, only tightly-monitored manuscript charts were used in order to minimize the risk of spreading the knowledge to competitors. From the mid-eighteenth century onwards, a printed atlas was used. In addition, the number of charts in the printed pilot guide was often limited because ships that did not sail to India/Ceylon or China and Japan were given restricted versions of the atlas that did not contain the charts of these areas.

The charts in this atlas were produced by Johannes (II) Van Keulen, official hydrographer to the VOC since 1726, and it eventually became part VI of his successful *Zee-Fakkel* (*Sea-Torch*). The atlas is known as the so-called secret atlas because its charts were not initially sold and were only used by VOC ships.

The charts in that volume of the atlas were and are rare.

Detailed Condition: