



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A new and accurate map of Peru and the Country of the Amazonas . . .

Stock#: 95027
Map Maker: Bowen
Date: 1744
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16.5 x 14 inches
Price: \$ 345.00



Description:

A New and Accurate Map of Peru and the Country of the Amazonas, drawn by Emanuel Bowen in London, 1744, offers a detailed depiction of Peru and the Amazon region, tracing the course of the river from its many tributaries to its mouth in the Atlantic Ocean.

The map displays Lake Xarayes as the source of the Paraguay River, a misconception prevalent at the time, reflecting the then-limited understanding of the complex Amazonian hydrological system.

Rich with descriptive annotations, the map provides insights into the geographic understanding and misconceptions of the era, some of which are fantastical or mythological. For instance, the map traces the River of Cuyari, also known as Madera or the Wood River by the Portuguese, highlighting how the Topinambes nation supposedly used this river as a passage into the River Amazonas.

In an interesting linguistic note, the map explains how the local Indians distinguish between the River Parana and the River Amazone based on their size. Parana, taking its rise on the frontiers of Peru, is called a "little river" to set it apart from the larger Amazon, which they call Paranaguzu or "great river."

Moreover, Bowen's map makes a speculative nod to the fabled city of El Dorado and the Lake of Parima. Most geographers of the time placed these mythical locations in the region of Guiana, reflecting the enduring legends of immense wealth and golden cities that drew European explorers to the New World.

As an object of its time, this map provides not only a geographical reference but also offers a cultural and historical window into the exploration and understanding of the Amazon region during the 18th century.



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Its ornate design and meticulous annotations make it a remarkable piece of cartographic history.

Detailed Condition: