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Partie de la Coste de Barbarie en Africque ou sont les Royaumes de Tunis, et Tripoli. . . 1655

Stock#: 73070
Map Maker: Sanson
Date: 1655
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 275.00



Description:

Nice example of Sanson's 1655 double-page engraved map of the Tunisian and Libyan coast of North Africa. Sanson's map also shows the islands of Malta, Limosa, Lampedusa, and the southernmost coast of Sicily.

This is a tangible testament to the seafaring explorations and geographical understandings of the 17th-century European cartographers. It presents a comprehensive depiction of a substantial region of North Africa, predominantly the Barbary Coast, with an emphasis on the Kingdoms of Tunis and Tripoli.

Despite the inherent limitations of 17th-century cartography, this particular map displays remarkable accuracy. The coastlines are delineated with precision and clarity, highlighting significant bays, promontories, and harbors. Equally, the cartographer represents the Kingdoms of Tunis and Tripoli as individual entities, distinct from each other yet part of the larger Barbary Coast region, extending into the mountainous regions north of the Sahara Desert.

The Barbary Coast, as the Europeans referred to it, was the term used for the North African territories under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, mainly encompassing modern-day Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. During the 17th-century, it was a region of pivotal maritime significance and a center of diplomatic and commercial interactions between the Europeans and the Ottomans. The Kingdoms of Tunis and Tripoli were vassal states under the Ottoman suzerainty.

Tunis and Tripoli were notorious for corsair activity during this period. Corsairs were privateers or pirates who operated along the Barbary Coast, under the tacit approval of the local rulers. They posed a



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significant threat to European maritime commerce, leading to several conflicts known as the Barbary Wars. This socio-political context provided a compelling motive for the detailed mapping of the region.

Detailed Condition:

Paper somewhat toned, especially at the edges and along the centerfold. Small repairs in the top margin around the centerfold. Some hand-coloring show-through to verso, not visible on the face of the map.