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(Virginia Indians) Sacerdos Secotensis [Priests of Secota]

Stock#: 84382
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1590
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 8.5 x 8.5 inches Including Text
Price: SOLD



Description:

16th-century engraved image showing a Virginian aboriginal priest from the Secota. The image shows two priests from a Virginian Indian town in conversation before a backdrop of fishing and hunting grounds.

This engraving is faithfully reproduced from the painting by John White entitled *One of Their Religious Men*. White was part of an important British expedition to the region. In April of 1585, he was sent along with a colonization effort to the newly named colony of Virginia, led by Sir Richard Grenville. A fort was constructed, and small parties were sent out to explore the area, including the scientist and surveyor Thomas Hariot and John White, as the artist. White sketched several drawings and, with Harriot, began preparing a manuscript map of the areas visited, although the Roanoake Colony soon failed and Sir Francis Drake took home the surviving colonists in June 1586.

This engraving was originally published as part of De Bry's *Grands Voyages*, one of the most important



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travel accounts of the 16th century. De Bry includes, in his accounts, some of the earliest depictions and descriptions of the Indians that French and English travelers encountered in the present-day United States.

Translation

The descriptive text below the plate reads:

The priests of the aforesaid town of Secota are well stricken in years and it seems of more experience than the common sort. They wear their hair cut like a crest on top of their heads as others do but the rest is cut short, save that which grows about their foreheads in the manner of a periwig. They also have something hanging in their ears. They wear a short cloak made of fine hares' skins, quilted with the hair outward. The rest of their body is naked. They are notable enchanters and for their pleasure they frequent the rivers to kill with their bows and catch wild ducks, swans, and other fowl.

Editions

This is the first edition of the print, with the signature A3 under the last two words of the text.

Detailed Condition:

Nice hand-color. Even toning.