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Nova Africae Tabula Auctore Jodoco Hondio

Stock#: 89597
Map Maker: Hondius
Date: 1619
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19.5 x 15 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

Fine Map of Africa from the Mercator-Hondius Atlas. Separately Issued Example.

Beautiful example of Hondius's map of Africa, first issued in 1606 and here printed in 1619.

The map an important rendition of African cartography and hydrography, in part as it is the first atlas map to show the modern hydrography of the Congo River. This cartography derived from the 1598 regional map of Central Africa by Filippo Pigafetta. Elsewhere, Hondius adopts Ortelius's model of the source of the Nile emanating from two large lakes in Central Africa. Hondius rejects the model more recently used by Mercator, which had shown an extra southern branch of the Nile and smaller lakes. Like Mercator, however, Hondius includes a Nubian branch of the Nile. The Niger River configuration is also derived from Ortelius.

Beyond Ortelius, the coastal regions and toponyms are improved following Linschoten's *Itinerario*, an important 16th guide on sailing to the East Indies. The map reflects Portuguese sources as well, as it includes the Portuguese discoveries on the Upper Zambezi and their interactions with Monomotapa in Southeast Africa.

The map was meant to be included in the Mercator-Hondius atlas alongside Gerard Mercator the Younger's 1595 continental map. Hondius's map improves upon Mercator's considerably, particularly in the outline of the North African coast and Madagascar. Cape Horn is more prominent, with the addition of Saldanha Bay and Cape Falco.



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Monomotapa

In the southernmost part of the continent is the kingdom of Monomotapa. In the early fifteenth century, a prince of the Kingdom of Zimbabwe established his own seat of power called the Kingdom of Mutapa to the north. The kingdom expanded quickly, fed by the region's gold reserves and trade connectivity.

The Portuguese heard of the empire, which reached its peak in 1480, when they rounded the Horn at the end of the fifteenth century and began trading along the coasts of southern Africa. The Portuguese traders transliterated the word for ruler, *Mwenemutapa*, to *Monomotapa*, which was then used to describe the region on maps.

In the 1560s, the Portuguese Crown entered into direct relations with Mutapa; in 1569, King Sebastian gave a coat of arms to the *Mwenemutapa*, the first grant of arms to a native southern African. However, this interaction was not characteristic of Portuguese-Mutapa relations, which were often combative as the Portuguese sought to take over the local gold reserves. These gold reserves were connected in European minds to the gold mines of King Solomon, ensuring Monomotapa an enduring place in the European geographic imagination.

Detailed Condition:

Fine original color. French text on verso with pagination 333. Some minor toning and soiling.