



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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India Orientalis

Stock#: 95290
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1610 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 10.5 x 8 inches
Price: \$ 475.00



Description:

Nice example of the Mercator-Hondius *Atlas Minor* map of Southeast Asia, the Philippines and India.

The "India Orientalis" map, published circa 1610 for the Mercator-Hondius *Atlas Minor*, is a captivating testament to the early modern understanding of Southeast Asia, the Philippines, and India, and a valuable snapshot of the region during the era of growing European exploration and trade.

The map spans an impressive geographical extent, from India's western edges and the Maldives to the coasts of southern China and the Philippine Islands, encapsulating a significant portion of the Asian continent. It offers a particular focus on the important trading regions of the "East Indies", demonstrating the state of knowledge that Europe held about this distant and diverse part of the world.

The map depicts the entirety of the Malay Peninsula, the emerging hub of Southeast Asia. Major port cities, like Malacca, a critical stopover on the spice route, are clearly marked. The representation of the peninsula hints at the region's growing importance as a nexus of trade and cultural exchange.

Adjacent to the Malay Peninsula, the map encompasses all of Indochina, representing the present-day countries of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. This area, rich in both natural resources and cultural heritage, was largely unknown to Europeans at the time, and its appearance on the map demonstrates the explorers' and mapmakers' eagerness to record and comprehend these distant lands.

Further south, the map extends to include the northern part of Borneo. While not yet fully explored or understood by Europeans during this period, the inclusion of Borneo indicates the island's significance in



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regional trade networks and early navigation charts.

The Philippines, an archipelago that was of considerable interest to Europe due to its strategic location and rich resources. The island group's depiction provides a fascinating look at the region before the height of colonial influence.

In its totality, the map serves as a window into a world gradually becoming more connected. Its geographical details reveal the complexities of the regions it represents, while its existence as a product of the Mercator-Hondius *Atlas Minor* testifies to the growing European interest in these regions.

Detailed Condition:

Minor Toning