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The Moccock [Original watercolor of a ring-tailed lemur.]

Stock#: 103914
Map Maker: Schumacher
Date: 1779 circa
Place: n.p. (Southern Africa or India?)
Color: Pen & Ink with Wash Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 17.75 x 12.5 inches Full Sheet
Price: \$ 7,500.00



Description:

An engaging late-18th-century watercolor of a ring-tailed lemur, labeled as "The Moccock," attributed to Johannes Schumacher or another associate of William Paterson, the famous explorer, natural history collector, and eventual Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales.

The drawing features the lemur in a side view with its body curved, its striped tail raised in the air, and its distinctive facial markings highlighted. The artist has captured the characteristic black-and-white striped tail and the wide-eyed expression of the lemur, providing detailed fur texture and naturalistic posture.

The annotation at the bottom of the illustration notes that the animal is found only on the Island of Madagascar and that its actual size is about twice as large as depicted in the drawing. The drawing itself is executed with delicate lines and soft shading to depict the lemur's fur and posture accurately, while the background remains minimal, emphasizing the creature.

Inscribed in the lower left corner:

The Moccock. This animal is to be found only on the Island of Madagascar / It is about twice the Size of the Picture.

Detailed Condition:

Ink and watercolor on late-18th-century laid paper watermarked with a Strasburg Lily GR countermark (this is a Whatman mark; see description for detailed explanation). The paper ruled in red as for a ledger book.