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Arx Principis Guiljelmi

Stock#: 26423
Map Maker: Ogilby
Date: 1671
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 11 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine birdseye view of Fort Prince William and Dutch Colony on the coast of Brazil.

In the late 1630s, Holland attempted to reassert its colonial presence along the Brazilian Coastline, by establishing a series of forts. One of the best-documented colonies was the expedition led by Prince Maurits of Nassau, who attempted to set up an intellectual court in the New World. He brought with him a group of highly accomplished artists, mapmakers, and scientists to record the mysteries of Brazil. They included the celebrated painter Frans Post and the astronomer George Markgraf, who produced first serious study of the southern sky. Post painted a wealth of images of the Brazilian landscape and the surrounding vegetation and wildlife. His works are some of the earliest European paintings of Brazil.

This view shows Fort Prince William near the Afogados River. Prince William was a square fort, which stood on a low plateau near the banks of the river. It had four bulwarks, strong palisades, and a high wooden The church that is pictured in the middle of the fort was the tallest structure in the camp, and could be seen all the way from Olinda. Prince William was a small outpost housing only 263 men and few slaves.

This view appeared in John Ogilby's *America: Being the Latest, and Most Accurate Description of the New World*, published in London in 1671. Ogilby drew heavily from the work of Arnoldus Montanus, but added a significant amount of new material.

Detailed Condition: