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Aegypti Recentior Descriptio: Aegyptis & Turcis Elchibith; Arabibus Mesre & Misri, Hebraeis Mitsraim

Stock#: 34239
Map Maker: Schenk & Valk
Date: 1690 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine old color example of this decorative map of Egypt, the Red Sea and part of the Holy Land, which first appeared in Jan Jansson's *Atlas Major VI: Novus Atlas Absolutissimus*, published by Schenk & Valk, with their names added in lower left corner.

The map includes an elaborate cartouche and a detailed treatment of the region from Jerusalem, Cairo and the Mediterranean in the north, extending south to include most of the Red Sea. The map is oriented to show West at the top.

The area shown on the map is the eyelet of Egypt. This region encompasses Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and Arabia, including the cities of Mecca and Medina.

In 1517, the Ottoman Empire conquered Egypt, following the Ottoman-Mamluk War and the absorption of Syria into the Empire in 1516. Egypt was administered as an eyelet of the Ottoman Empire between the years 1517 and 1867. Ruling from Istanbul, the Ottomans immediately divided Egypt into districts attached administratively to the province headquarters. The Orderly Government of Suleiman the Magnificent brought improvements and stimulated immigration of Jews from Europe to the Holy Land.

Due in part to the continued influence of the Mamluks, Egyptian slave militants who had ruled the country for centuries, Egypt remained a difficult province for the Ottoman Sultans to control. Early during Ottoman occupation, constant changes in the Egyptian government sparked unrest in the army. Mutinies



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were often led by successive pashas in an effort to stop the extortion, a forced payment exacted by troops from the inhabitants of the country. In 1604, the governor was murdered by soldiers. In 1609, a type of civil war broke out between the army and the pasha-a year later the rebellion was put down.

Between the years 1687 and 1731, Egypt experienced six famines. The weakening economic and governmental system combined with the effects of plague left Egypt vulnerable to foreign invasion. Egypt remained semi-autonomous under the Mamluks until it was invaded by the forces of Napoleon in 1798. After the French were expelled, power was seized in 1805 by a military commander of the Ottoman army in Egypt. The Portuguese were the first to initiate trade relationships, soon followed by the English.

This map was made around 1690 when the eyelet of Egypt was at its weakest point. At the time, European powers traded throughout Africa; they sailed the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea looking for new routes to circumnavigate the Ottoman Turks and the Silk Road.

Detailed Condition: