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Poli Arctici, et Circumiacentium Terrarum Descriptio Novissima [Proof State]

Stock#: 37958
Map Maker: Hondius
Date: 1636
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG-
Size: 20 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Proof state of Henricus Hondius' remarkable map of the North Polar Regions..

With the advances in the knowledge of the Arctic, Mercator's map of 1595 had become obsolete by the 1630s. For the 1636 English edition of the Mercator Hondius Atlas, Hondius engraved a new polar map. The first two editions issued in 1636 contained no decorative vignettes on the sides and are regarded as proof states of the map. The English 1636 edition includes two blank cartouches, lacking the title, which is shown here in the second proof state. The German edition issued in 1636 was the first complete edition, including the decorative vignettes surrounding the map.

Hondius drew on the Cartography of Herny Briggs for his model of Hudson's Bay, supplemented by Thomas James' map of 1633. The usual confusion appears around Frobisher's Strait. The prospect of a Northwest Passage is left open, as is the entire northwestern portion of North America. Dutch nomenclature appears along the coast of Labrador.

This state is extremely rare, this being the first example we have ever offered.

Detailed Condition:

Cut into image at top and bottom, with restoration of neat lines, but not affecting the map image. Several tears, expertly repaired on verso.