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Havana

Stock#: 57115
Map Maker: Ogilby

Date: 1671
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 11.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine dark impression of John Ogilby's view of Havana.

The image shows a spectacular, if some what overly dramatic view of the town and harbor, which the artist has embellished with stylish European churches and similar structures, at a time when Havana would have been little more than a fortified village. Strategically situated in the northern coast of Cuba and facing the Gulf Stream, Havana became a critical stopping point in the Spanish trade route.

With its fine harbor, excellent shipyard, and rich farmlands, Havana became the perfect layover before the long trip back to Europe. The Spanish fleet typically remained in Havana for several months at a time, waiting for clear horizons, superior orders, or propitious winds. This view depicts a well-fortified town and a thriving port. The battle in the foreground may reflect the regular pirate activity in the region.

The view appeared in John Ogilby's *America: Being the Latest, and Most Accurate Description of the New World*, first issued in 1671 and Arnoldus Montanus' *Die Nieuwe en onbekende Weereld…,* which was produced in Amsterdam earlier the same year. Considered the first encyclopedias of the Americas, both texts are richly illustrated with maps, views and portraits. One of the best early views of Havana.

Detailed Condition: