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A Draft of the Golden & Adjacent Islands, with part of ye Isthmus of Darien as it was taken by Capt. Ieneser. Where ye Scots West-India Company were Setteled [and] a New Map of ye Isthmus of Darien in America, The Bay of Panama, The Gulf of Vallona.

Stock#: 57330
Map Maker: Senex
Date: 1721
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 24 x 19.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Interesting pair of maps showing the Scottish Darien Colony in Central America and a more general map of the Isthmus of Darien, Panama, etc., extending from Honduras, Nicaragua and Coat Rica to the Government of St. Martha (Columbia).

The Darien scheme was an unsuccessful attempt by the Kingdom of Scotland to become a world trading nation by establishing a colony called "New Caledonia" on the Isthmus of Panama in the late 1690s.

In 1695 the Bank of Scotland was established and the Company of Scotland was chartered with capital to be raised by public subscription to trade with "Africa and the Indies". The Company of Scotland devised the Darien scheme, and was led by Scottish trader and financier William Paterson, to establish a colony on the Isthmus of Panama in the hope of establishing trade with the Far East and the mineral rich European colonies of the west coast of the Americas.



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The Company of Scotland easily raised subscriptions in Amsterdam, Hamburg and London for the scheme. The English Government of King William III, however, was opposed to the idea. It was at war with France and hence did not want to offend Spain, which claimed the territory as part of New Granada. It was also under pressure from the English East India Company, who were keen to maintain their monopoly over English foreign trade. It therefore forced the English and Dutch investors to withdraw. Next, the East India Company threatened legal action on the grounds that the Scots had no authority from the king to raise funds outside the English realm, and obliged the promoters to refund subscriptions to the Hamburg investors. This left no source of finance but Scotland itself.

The attempted colonization was plagued by poor planning and leadership, lack of demand for trade goods, devastating epidemics of disease, and increasing shortage of food; it was finally abandoned after a siege by Spanish forces in April of 1700. As the Darien Company had been financed using roughly 25% of the money circulating in Scotland, its failure left Scotland almost completely ruined.

Detailed Condition:

Minor marginal chipping at top left corner and minor soiling.