



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

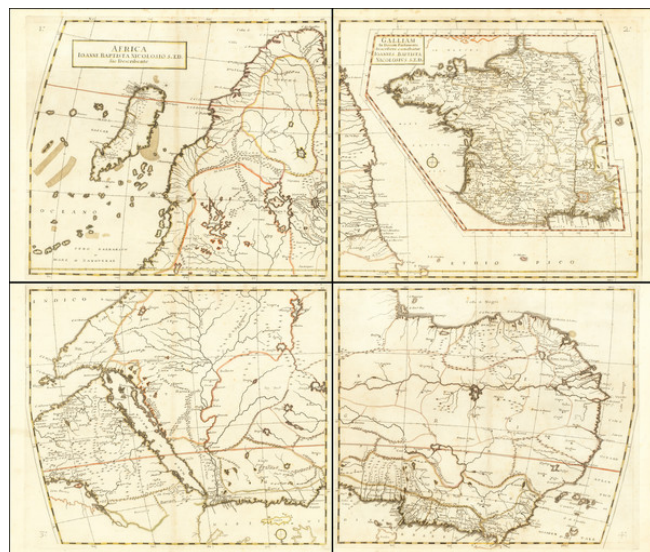
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Africa Ioanne Baptista Nicoloso S.T.D. Sic Describente

Stock#: 74546mj
Map Maker: Nicolosi
Date: 1660
Place: Rome
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 38 x 32 inches (if joined)
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nicolosi's Landmark Map of Africa

Fine example of the first state of Nicolosi's important four sheet map of Africa.

This spectacular four-sheet map of Africa was produced by Italian geographer and map-maker Giovanni Battista Nicolosi on a commission from the Vatican. Published in Nicolosi's seminal atlas *Dell' Ercole e Studio Geografico*, the map tells the story of Europe on the cusp of an age of incredible and aggressive expansion. It is both one of the first post-Renaissance maps of Africa to be produced in the Italian schools of cartography, and the first map of Africa to use the landmark Nicolosi Globular Projection.

Following the tradition of Italian mapmakers of the 16th century, such as Ramusio and Bertelli, Nicolosi oriented his map with Southern Africa aligned at the top. The main source for this map appears to be Nicolas Sanson's map of Africa of 1650. However, Nicolosi's map of Africa is more conservative than Sanson's map, with relatively limited nomenclature, especially in the first state.

Nicolosi does show a lake in Abyssinia which may be a pre-cursor to Lake Tana, the source for the Blue Nile River, likely from the Portuguese travel accounts. What is unusual is that Nicolosi does not generally fill the map with placenames and geographic features based on other various travel accounts on Africa and from the prevailing information of his time. This information was available to him, yet he chose to not include it on his map. More details and placenames are added to the second state of this map, albeit cautiously so.



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Giovanni Battista Nicolosi (1610-1670) was a priest and cartographer for the Vatican's *Propaganda Fide* in Rome. In 1652, motivated by Sanson's new work, the *Propoganda Fide* of Rome commissioned Nicolosi to produce an atlas, which would become Nicolosi's *Dell' Hercole e Studio Geografico*, published in 1660 and 1671. The 4 sheet maps of the continents have become highly sought after by collectors, incorporating Nicolosi's meticulous work and novel presentation style.

Nicolosi was the first to employ the so-called pseudo-perspective projection in which the established meridians were perfected with the introduction of complimenting circular parallels. Over the next decades, and especially during the early 18th century, this projection technique – also known as the *globular projection* – became increasingly popular and was applied by seminal cartographers such as Guillaume de l'Isle and Aaron Arrowsmith. In the decades after Nicolosi's death, the *globular* or Nicolosi projection replaced the stereographic projection popularized by Mercator, which had increasingly fallen into disuse by then. During the 19th century, the Nicolosi perspective became the standard cartographic projection technique and it even remains in use today.

Detailed Condition:

4 sheets, unjoined.