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(Spice Islands) Amboina

Stock#: 77242
Map Maker: Valentijn
Date: 1724
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 29.4 x 11.4 inches



Price: \$ 450.00

Description:

Attractive original antique view of Ambon Island from Francois Valentijn's *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. Ambon is located in the southernmost Spice Islands on the island of Ambon. The views show various towns and forests as seen from the ocean. It also shows multiple European and local ships, alongside numerous buildings and high, imposing mountains. A key at the bottom lists seventeen places of interest.

Fort Victoria, located on Ambon Island, was the Central Governing Point of the VOC until the government relocated to Batavia (Jakarta) in 1619.

Ambon Island, part of the Maluku Islands in central Indonesia, is located on the Banda Sea. During the colonial period, the island was originally colonized by the Portuguese, prior to the Dutch takeover of the island in 1605. The 1623 "Ambon Massacre" of English settlers who briefly captured the island remained a thorn in the side of Dutch-British relations for many years. Subsequently, the British captured and returned the island several times.

Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien

After spending sixteen years in the East Indies over the course of several voyages, Valentijn returned to his native Dordrecht. There, he finished his history of the East Indies, *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. The book was divided in five parts spread over eight volumes. It had over a thousand illustrations, including some of the most accurate maps of the region published to that date.

For the text, Valentijn borrowed heavily from contemporary works. To create such detailed maps and descriptions, Valentijn most likely also had access to the VOC's archives. These archives were closely watched and very few scholars or officials gained entry, particularly if they were likely to publish the contents of the repository. Indeed, Valentijn was lucky to see his work published at all.



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Today, Valentijn's work is regarded as a veritable encyclopedia on maritime Asia. It is considered a useful collection of sources, from the eighteenth century and earlier, drawn from the VOC and personal papers. Some of his maps, particularly those of Australia, are drawn from manuscript sources now lost, making his history the lone surviving record of endangered knowledge.

Detailed Condition: