



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[Sri Lanka] Nieuwe Kaart van het Eyland Ceylon, opgesteld door Francois Valentyn . . .

Stock#: 85722
Map Maker: Valentijn
Date: 1724
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 21.5 x 17.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce Early Dutch Map of Sri Lanka

Nice example of Francois Valentijn's map of Sri Lanka, which appeared in his *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*, a significant history of the Dutch in Maritime Asia and one written with rare access to the Dutch East India Company (VOC) archives and information.

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.

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



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history the lone surviving record of endangered knowledge.

Detailed Condition:

Minor offsetting.