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Totius Africae Accuratissima Tabula Authore I. Danckerts Amsteoldami [Most Accurate Map of All of Africa by I. Danckerts, Amsterdam]

Stock#: 95551
Map Maker: Danckerts
Date: 1683
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 23 x 19.5 inches
Price: \$ 875.00



Description:

Totius Africae Accuratissima Tabula Authore I. Danckerts Amsteoldami, published in 1683 by Justus Danckerts in Amsterdam, offers a captivating representation of the African continent, notable for its intricate title cartouche and a heritage rooted in the esteemed Danckerts mapmaking family. Situated in the map's lower left corner, the elaborate title cartouche gracefully depicts an African queen, Arab merchants, iconic African fauna such as lions and elephants, and valuable resources like ivory.

The late 17th century was a time of flourishing cartographic endeavors in Europe, with Amsterdam emerging as a map and print publishing hub. Central to this renaissance in Amsterdam was the Danckerts family, renowned for almost a century of cartographic publishing. The map in question can trace its lineage to Theodorus I, likely working in tandem with Justus and Cornelis II. Justus Danckerts, who is recorded from 1664 in the booksellers' guild until his death in 1701, remained a significant figure. Though the atlases produced by Justus and his kin largely remained undated, subsequent research by scholars such as Gyuri Danku of the Budapest National Széchényi Library indicates that 1683 is the most probable publication year for this particular map.

This African map, while a testament to the Danckerts' prowess, also raises intriguing questions about cartographic ethics and intellectual property of the period. Its design and geography closely mirror that of the c. 1670 Africa map by Frederick de Wit. Curiously, the Danckerts appear to have proceeded without securing De Wit's authorization, and, even after obtaining a publishers' privilege in 1684, continued to



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release this map sans privilege.

The map's legacy within the broader corpus of the Danckerts' works is evident. While initially circulated as a standalone piece, it found its way into undated Danckerts atlases from 1688 onwards. By the cusp of the 18th century, around 1699 or 1700, it would be succeeded by a refreshed map of Africa, indicating the continuous evolution and refinement characteristic of the Danckerts' cartographic oeuvre.

States

See Betz 131. Somewhat confusingly, Betz lists only two states of the map, but explains and illustrates significant changes to the plate occurring within what he terms the first state. According to Betz, the present map is the first state, as it still has the ships in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans that are removed in state two. However, he also notes substantial changes to the title cartouche within the first state. These changes are substantial, intentional, and apparently occurred in more than two iterations. Based on the detailed images illustrated by Betz, it is not clear to us that the two versions of the cartouche are actually the same copper plate.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color.