



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Africa verlagt von Ioh: Michael Probst in Augsburg

Stock#: 95657
Map Maker: Probst

Date: 1790
Place: Augsburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 9.5 x 7 inches

Price: \$ 395.00



Description:

Africa verlagt von Ioh: Michael Probst in Augsburg, an original antique map by Johann Michael Probst circa 1790, is a significant representation of the African continent, with an intricately illustrated cartouche depicting a native brandishing a bow and arrow juxtaposed with an alligator. Accompanied by a directory and explanatory text, this map presents a nuanced view of Africa's diverse territories and inhabitants at the close of the 18th century.

The late 18th century was a period of intense interest and exploration of the African continent by European powers. This map, with its focus on political divisions and regional characteristics, reveals much about European perceptions and knowledge of Africa at the time. The text elaborates on the African climate, describes its vast deserts and rich landscapes, and estimates its population. Importantly, it underscores Europe's geographical relation to Africa, pointing out the separation through the Strait of Gibraltar and noting the continent's extensive size compared to Europe.

The precision with which regions and kingdoms are delineated and named demonstrates the depth of geographic knowledge amassed by the end of the 18th century. Territories like Barbarey, Nigritia, and Guinea are subdivided into their respective kingdoms, such as Marocco, Alger, and Nubia. Moreover, the text touches upon the ethnic and cultural makeup of the continent, identifying the residents of various regions, their religious affiliations, and their interactions with European settlers.

In its entirety, Probst's map stands as an artifact of the Age of Enlightenment's pursuit of knowledge and understanding. It not only serves as a geographical record but also as a sociocultural snapshot, capturing the intersections of European exploration, colonial ambitions, and indigenous African societies at a pivotal moment in history.



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Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Minor marginal soiling.