



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Native Americans) Idolum Kiwasa XXI [Idol of Kiwasa]

Stock#: 97749
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1591
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 12.5 x 9.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Idolum Kiwasa XXI, engraved by Theodor De Bry and published in Frankfurt in 1591, depicts the Kiwasa idol of Secota, associated with overseeing the dead in its temple. This is an original engraving from De Bry's *Grands Voyages* series.

During the late 16th century, European explorers were documenting their encounters with previously unknown regions and their inhabitants. Theodor De Bry's *Grands Voyages* sought to compile these accounts. The Kiwasa idol, as portrayed, stands at approximately four feet, carved from wood. Its features, especially the head, seem reminiscent of the Florida natives. According to the text, the idol's contrasting color scheme—flesh-toned face, white chest, and black body—is complemented by torques made of white beads interspersed with sand beads, illustrating local artistic and material preferences.

Positioned in Secota's temple, the idol underscores its role in local customs, especially in relation to the



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deceased. The description also alludes to the residents' limited exposure to external religious practices, yet indicates their observational inclinations. Such illustrations provide insights into the era's cultural intersections, revealing nuances of early interactions and shared human curiosity.

Detailed Condition:

Sheet expertly extended at the right edge.