



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

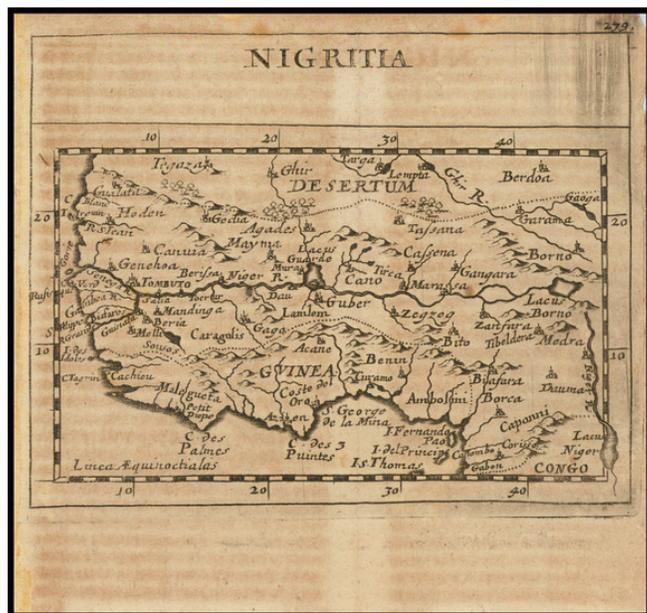
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(Africa) Nigritia

Stock#: 98260
Map Maker: Du Val / Hoffmann
Date: 1681
Place: Nuremberg
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 5 x 4 inches
Price: \$ 145.00



Description:

Map of North and West Africa After Pierre Du Val

Created in 1681 by Johann Hoffmann after a similar map by Pierre Du Val, *Nigritia* presents a detailed representation of West Africa, extending to the west coast and delving into the interior. The map, indicative of the cartographic knowledge of the late 17th century, shows regions, geographical features, and cities relevant to European exploration and trade endeavors in the continent at this time.

A main feature of the map is the relatively accurate coastline contrasted with an inaccurate interior. The northern part of the map is largely vacant with the vast expanse of the Sahara Desert, labeled as "Desertum," highlighting the formidable and uncharted nature of the continent. Further south, the map incorrectly depicts the Niger River simplistically extending across the continent which further underscores European limitations of cartographic knowledge during the period, as the Niger is a much shorter and more complex river system.

Several prominent regions and kingdoms are also included. Notably, the powerful kingdoms of Congo and Guinea are shown in addition to important cities in these empires. Among these cities are Tombuto (more commonly known as Timbuktu), a legendary center of trade and Islamic scholarship, and Agades, a crucial stop on trans-Saharan trade routes. The inclusion of these locations, which served as hubs of commerce, culture, and power, illustrates the increasing connection between Europe and Africa during this time.



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Through its detailed depictions, "Nigritia" offers viewers a window into the European understanding of the African continent at the close of the 17th century. While the map captures places of European interest in Africa with relative accuracy, it also reflects the limitations of Western geography at this time due to limited exploration and contact.

Detailed Condition:

Toning throughout. Minor tears on upper right.