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[Virginia Natives -- The Conjurer] Praestigiator

Stock#: 98754
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1585
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 8.3 x 9 inches
Price: \$ 575.00



Description:

Fine copper plate engraving showing Theodore De Bry's version of John White's painting.

Theodor de Bry's engraving shows a native from Virginia dancing with a bird on his head. In one of the original paintings, the man is leading a group dance. De Bry and others on whom he based his work believed this figure to be a soothsayer in the context of the tribe as they wore special attire (like a bird in the hair) and carried out ritualistic dances and healings. It is unclear if this practice was really what people witnessed or what its purpose was.

In 1585, Governor John White, was part of a voyage from England to the Outer Banks of North Carolina under a plan of Sir Walter Raleigh to settle "Virginia." White was at Roanoke Island for about thirteen months before returning to England for more supplies. During this period he made a series of over seventy watercolor drawings of indigenous people, plants, and animals. The purpose of his drawings was to give



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those back home an accurate idea of the inhabitants and environment in the New World. The earliest images derived from White's original drawings were made in 1590, when Theodor De Bry made engravings from White's drawings to be printed in Thomas Hariot's account of the journey. Hariot, a mathematician, had also been part of the 1585 voyage.

Detailed Condition:

Minor tear on top center. Toning throughout, not affecting image. Minor loss by the top hand. Right margin replaced. Repaired tear within the image.