



(Powhatan Burial Practices) Regulorum Sepulcra XXII [Tombs of the Rulers]

Stock#: 99647
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1591
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 12 x 8 inches Image Only
Price: \$ 975.00



Description:

Regulorum Sepulcra XXII, engraved by Theodor de Bry and published in Frankfurt in 1591, provides a detailed depiction of the burial practices of a Werowan, a leader of the Powhatan Indian tribe. The illustration brings to light the specific customs and methods the Powhatan employed for their deceased leaders, emphasizing their cultural significance and practices.

During the latter part of the 16th century, European expeditions to the New World sought to chronicle and understand the indigenous cultures they encountered. Theodor de Bry's works served as visual records for Europeans, offering a window into the customs and lives of these indigenous groups. In *Regulorum Sepulcra XXII*, the processes involved in the Powhatan funerary rituals are laid bare, from the separation of flesh from bone to the preservation of the remains on an elevated platform.

The presence of the idol "KIWASA" in proximity to the bodies indicates its importance in Powhatan spiritual beliefs, possibly as a guardian or protector of the deceased. The mention of a priestly figure dwelling beneath the platform further reinforces the continuous and profound respect accorded to the tribe's leaders, even in death.

Through *Regulorum Sepulcra XXII*, de Bry offers a straightforward, yet informative, perspective on the Powhatan's burial customs, emphasizing the tribe's respect for their leaders and the rituals that surrounded their passing.

Detailed Condition:

Engraving and letterpress on two sheets joined as one. Minor offsetting on text sheet.