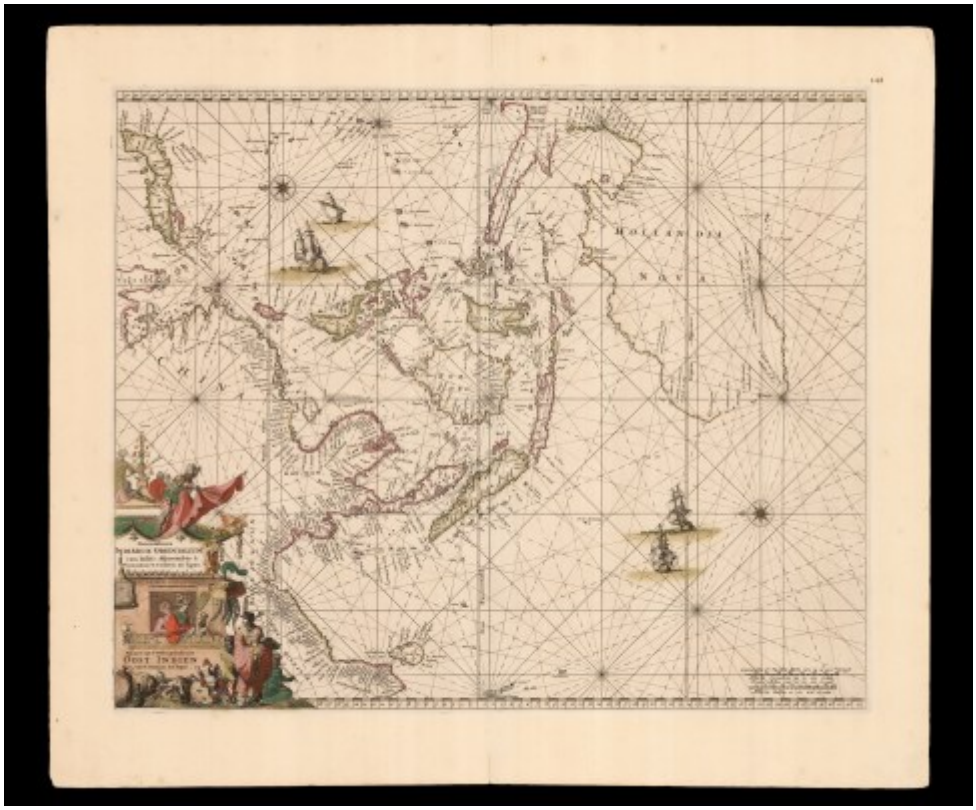

Double-page engraved chart with contemporary hand-colour in outline and in part, verso blank.

AUSTRALIA WITHOUT TASMANIA

Orientaliora Indiarum Orientalium cum Insulis Adjacentibus a Promontorio C. Comorin ad Iapan – Pascaert van t'Ooster gedeelte van Oost Indien van C. Comorin tot Iapan.

Author
WIT, Frederick de

Publication date
1675.

Publisher
Frederick de Wit,

Publication place
Amsterdam,

Physical description
Double-page engraved chart with contemporary hand-colour in outline and in part, verso blank.

Dimensions
443 by 543mm (17.5 by 21.5 inches).

Notes
A magnificent chart of the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and Australia, with east oriented to the top, the first state, without Tasmania, first published in Frederick de Wit's 'Orbis Maritimus ofte Zee Atlas' (1675). Based on the eastern sheet of Hendrick Doncker's, untitled, large two-sheet chart of the Indian Ocean (1660), the first printed chart to show the discoveries of Abel Tasman on his

voyages of 1642 and 1644.

A highly decorative title cartouche fills the bottom left corner, depicting some peoples of the East, and their luxurious trading goods.

The mapmaker
Frederick de Wit (c1630-1706) was a mapmaker and publisher. He moved to Amsterdam in 1648 and studied under Willem Janszoon Blaeu, and by 1654 he began his own business. He was already a well-established cartographic artist, engraving a plan of Haarlem around 1648 and providing city views for Antonius Sanderus's 'Flandria Illustrata'. He issued his own map of the world, 'Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Tabula', as both a wall map and a folio in 1660. Two years later, he began to print atlases, which developed from small compositions mainly compiled of prints from bought stock to larger productions containing his own work. By the 1770s, de Wit was making atlases of over one hundred and fifty maps.

After marrying Maria van der Way, a native of Amsterdam, de Wit was granted the privileges of a citizen, and became a member of the city's guild of St Luke in 1664. He published a lavish maritime atlas in 1675, 'Orbis Maritimus ofte Zee Atlas', known for its elaborate decoration. In 1695, he published a book of city views of the Netherlands, 'Perfekte aftekeningen der steden van de XVII Nederlandsche provincien'; the plates were later bought by the Blaeu family and reused for their town books. After de Wit died his widow Maria continued the business until 1710. His son was a successful stockfish merchant and so did not follow his father into cartography.

Bibliography
Literature: Clancy, 'So They came South', page 88; Clancy, 'The Mapping of Terra Australis', 6.13; Tooley, 'Mapping of Australia', 1369.

Provenance

Price: £6000

Inventory reference: 23127

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