



Oblong quarto (270 by 300mm). 33 charts numbered 1-30, 2 unnumbered charts and one in the text, a few worm holes to upper left, affecting first 13 leaves, and first chart, a few charts trimmed to neatline, a few age toned; contemporary Dutch vellum, with original ties.

BLAEU'S PILOT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

'T Derde deel van 't Licht der zee-vaert, inhoudende de beschryvinghe der zeecusten van de Middellandsche Zee, By een vergaedert ende in't licht ghebracht door Willem Janssen. Blaeu.

Author

BLAEU, Willem

Publication date

1618.

Publisher

W. J. Blaeu,

Publication place

Amsterdam,

Physical description

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Dimensions

270 by 330mm. (10.75 by 13 inches).

Notes

The extremely rare third part of Blaeu's 'Licht der Zeevaart', covering the Mediterranean Sea.

Blaeu published the first two books of the 'Licht der Zeevaart', covering the Western, and Eastern

and Northern navigations (i.e. the coast from Amsterdam to the Straits of Gibraltar; and from Amsterdam to the Scandinavia), in 1608. In 1618, he issued a third book covering the Mediterranean; the first pilot of those waters to be published since Barentsz's 'Nieuwe Beschryvinghe ende Caertboeck van de Midlandtsche', last published in 1609. In the works dedication, Blaeu pays handsome tribute to Barentsz's pilot, and although he has taken a great deal of information from the earlier work, Blaeu easily surpasses it in detail and accuracy.

The pilot consists of 33 finely engraved charts, the first two are general chart of the Western and Eastern Mediterranean, respectively; with the subsequent charts plot a clockwise course of the coast, beginning and ending with the Straits of Gibraltar. For a full description of the 'Licht der Zeevaart', please see item ?.

Blaeu would publish further editions of the pilot in 1621, and 1623. All editions are extremely rare. We are unaware of another example appearing at auction since the Second World War.

Bibliography

Koeman M. Bl 8.

Provenance

Price: £160000

Inventory reference: 23911