

Double-page engraved map of the East Indies, with contemporary hand-colour in outline, French text on verso.

THE FIRST COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE MAP TO SHOW THE DISCOVERIES OF THE ‘DUYFKEN’

Indiae Orientalis Nova Descriptio.

Author
JANSSONIUS, Johannes

Publication date
[1633].

Publisher
Ioannes Janssonius excudebat,

Publication place
Amstelodami,

Physical description
Double-page engraved map of the East Indies, with contemporary hand-colour in outline, French text on verso.

Dimensions
390 by 500mm (15.25 by 19.75 inches).

Notes
Johannes Janssonius’s map of the East Indies was first published in his ‘Atlantis Majoris Appendix’ in 1630, when it was the “first commercially available map to show any of the discoveries made in the

‘Duyfken’ in any detail” (Woods). It is an undisputed landmark in the mapping of Australia. This example, is from the first fully joint publication of Johannes Janssonius and Henricus Hondius, their being the so-called “French Appendix” of 1633.

In 1606, Willem Janszoon, the captain of the ‘Duyfken’, sailed down the south coast of New Guinea and named a small piece of land “Duyfkens Eylant”, after which, just like that, he crossed Torres Strait, although he thought it a bay, and arrived on the west coast of Cape York peninsula, as far as the Arukun Wetlands, although he thought it still New Guinea.

Janszoon was probably the first European to chart any part of Australia, but the map does not show the entire route of the voyage of the ‘Duyfken’, “because it does not extend far enough south or east to include the ship’s path along the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria. While this may have been a deliberate omission, it is more likely to be the result of cartographic convention: Janssonius’s map was framed according to an earlier map by Jodocus Hondius, ‘Insulae Indiae Orientalis’ – Islands of East India – of 1613” (Woods).

The mapmaker
The son of an established printer — publisher Jan Jansz., Johannes Janssonius (1588-1664), was Willem Jansz. Blaeu’s main rival. In 1618, he set up his own cartographic publishing firm on the Damrak, the central canal and commercial hub of Amsterdam. In 1612, he married Elisabeth de Hondt, the daughter of Jodocus Hondius,… another of Blaeu’s competitors. “Theirs was a rivalry which soon grew to include accusations of plagiarism and theft of intellectual property, a state of affairs not helped by Blaeu’s use of the name “Jan Zoon” to sign his works” (Woods).
Although Janssonius’s first independent work was an edition of Blaeu’s ‘Licht der Zeervaert’ in 1620, he is first associated with the Mercator-Hondius atlas in 1633, when the French edition includes his name on the title-page. The Dutch editions of 1634, 1638 and 1647 were published by Janssonius alone; but the English edition, 1636, the Latin of 1638, were issued by both Janssonius and Hondius. After 1638 the name of the atlas changed to ‘Atlas Novus…’, and from 1649 Hondius’s name no longer appears on the title-page or preface. In time, Janssonius would add a fifth volume, the ‘Atlas Maritimus’ (1657), a significant sea-atlas; and eventually, a further five volumes including maps from every corner of the globe, by about one hundred credited authors and engravers. The final, eleventh volume, Andreas Cellarius’s celestial atlas, completed the ‘Atlas Major’ in 1660.

Bibliography
Clancy, ‘The Mapping of Terra Australis’, 6.6; Schilder, ‘Australia Unveiled’, 24; Woods, National Library of Australia, ‘Mapping our World: Terra Incognita to Australia’, pages 114-116.

Provenance

Price: £2500

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