

First issue. Double-page engraved map, with contemporary hand-colour in full, Latin text on verso.

THE SECOND COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE MAP TO SHOW BOTH THE DUTCH DISCOVERIES OF THE WEST COAST OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA AND THE MOST NORTHERLY DISCOVERIES OF THE WESTERN COAST OF AUSTRALIA

India quae Orientalis dicitur et Insulae Adiacentes.

Author
HONDIUS, Hendricus

Publication date
1636].

Publisher
Henricus Hondius,

Publication place
[Amsterdam,

Physical description
First issue. Double-page engraved map, with contemporary hand-colour in full, Latin text on verso.

Dimensions
509 by 592mm (20 by 23.25 inches).

Notes
Based on Willem Jansz. Blaeu’s map ‘India quae Orientalis dicitur et Insulae Adiacentes’ (1634), first

included in his ‘Atlas’ from 1635, when it was only the second commercially available map to show the full extent of Willem Janszoon’s voyage in the ‘Duyfken’ (preceded by Henricus Hondius’s own world map of 1630), and the first to include details of the Dutch discoveries on the northern west coast of Australia.

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”, sailed across the Torres Strait, down the west coast of Cape York peninsula, as far as the Arukun Wetlands, assuming that it was still part of New Guinea. In the middle of the lower margin is the fragmented coastline of northern Western Australia: “G.F. de Wits landt”, named for Gerrit Fredericsz de Wit and his voyage of 1628; and “‘t Landt van ‘D Eendracht'”, referencing Dirk Haartog’s first landfall in 1616 at Ashburton River.

This map was first published in 1636 in the third volume of the Hondius-Janssonius ‘Atlas Novus’. It is the second map to show both the Dutch discoveries of the west coast of Cape York Peninsula and the most northerly discoveries of the west coast, G.F. de Wit’s Land and Eendractland. (Gerrit de Wit commanded the Vianen which ran aground on the coast in 1628; the Eendracht, commanded by Dirck Hartog, made the first west coast sighting in 1616.) It seems that Hondius “borrowed” from Willem Blaeu who, a year earlier in 1635, published an almost identical map with the same title (q.v.). The Hondius map differs only in its omission of the Willems Revier on the west coast, as shown in Blaeu.

Parry notes that recent research suggests that Hessel Gerritsz, hydrographer of the VOC, produced the original map in 1631 or 1632, and Blaeu obtained the copper plates from the VOC Directors. Perry, on the other hand, suggests that Jodocus Hondius also obtained information about the Cape York discoveries directly from Gerritsz’s maps. Over the next 20 years, Latin, Dutch and French editions were published.

The mapmaker
Henricus Hondius II (1597–1651). After Jodocus Hondius I’s death in 1612, his widow, Jodocus Hondius II and his brother, Henricus Hondius II, continued publishing atlases under his name until 1620. Unfortunately, in 1621 Jodocus Hondius II split with his brother, creating a rival publishing house. Henricus continued his father’s business with his brother-in-law, Joannes Janssonius (1588–1664), who had married twenty-four-year-old Elizabeth Hondius in 1612. After 1619, the ‘Atlas’ was published under the name of Henricus Hondius, Jodocus Hondius’s son, but by 1629, the Blaeu family were becoming serious rivals to the publishing partnership of Janssonius and Hondius.

Bibliography
Literature: Clancy, ‘The Mapping of Terra Australis’, 6.7; Clancy, ‘So Came They South’, page 77-79; National Library of Australia, ‘Mapping our World: Terra Incognita to Australia’, page 116; Tooley, ‘Mapping of Australia’, 1979, 721 onward; Suarez, ‘Early Mapping of Southeast Asia’, 1999, pages 201-202.

Provenance

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