



Engraved chart.

VAN KEULEN'S CHART OF MUMBAI FROM THE 'SECRET ATLAS'

Nieuwe Afteekening van Bombay

Author

KEULEN, Joannes van [II]

Publication date

1753].

Publisher

Publication place

[Amsterdam,

Physical description

Engraved chart.

Dimensions

443 by 530mm. (17.5 by 20.75 inches).

Notes

A fine example of the most accurate chart of Mumbai printed at the time, from van Keulen's so called 'Secret Atlas'.

This exceedingly rare chart was first published by Johannes van Keulen [II] (fl 1720-1755) the grandson of the founder of the van Keulen firm also Johannes van Keulen (1654-1711). In 1753, he produced an additional volume VI to augment his grandfather's famous sea atlas, the 'Zee-Fakkel',

containing detailed printed charts for the navigation of the waters from the Cape of Good Hope to Nagasaki. Although the atlas was not commercially sold and only for use on board Dutch East India Company (VOC) ships, the printing of these charts was a considerable departure for the VOC, who had hitherto relied on manuscript charts, for fear that printed material would be disseminated too easily, and the Company's competitive edge blunted.

Due to the atlas's commercial sensitivity it became known as the 'secret atlas', and by the lack of extant examples of either the atlas or charts, it would appear that the VOC was adept at keeping it so.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £5000

Inventory reference: 23939