



Mortier's sea chart of Madagascar in full original colour

MORTIER, Pierre.

Carte Particuliere de L'Isle Dauphiné ou Madagascar et St. Laurens.

Amsterdam, 1700. Original body colour. Two sheets conjoined, total 565 x 850mm.

£1,100

A large chart of Madagascar, orientated with north to the left, published in Mortier's monumental three-part sea-atlas, 'Le Neptune François'. The first part was a counterfeit of a French original (with 'à Paris' in the publication line); the second part, the 'Atlas Maritime' contained charts engraved by Romain de Hooghe, including the famous chart of the Mediterranean; the third, the 'Suite de Neptune François', contained charts from Portuguese sources. This chart comes from a full-colour example rather than the usual outline. Of particular interest is the delineations of Antongil Bay and Nosy Boraha (Île Sainte-Marie) in the north east: at the time both were havens for European pirates preying on the East India trade and Mughal treasure ships. The actions of William Kidd, Henry Every, John Bowen & Thomas Tew in the region helped make the period of this chart the golden age of piracy.

KOEMAN: M.Mor 7; 'This magnificent work was intended more as a show-piece' (Vol IV p.424).

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