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Striking 17th century map of the East Indies

HONDIUS, Jodocus.
Insulae Indiae Orientalis Praecipuae In quibus Moluccae celeberrimae sunt.

Amsterdam: Henricus Hondius 1619, French text edition. Original colour with additions. 345 x 475mm.

£2,000

A classic 17th century map of the East Indies, decorated with strapwork cartouches, compass roses and a vignette sea battle representing the struggle between the Dutch and the Portuguese for control of the area. In his book 'Early Mapping of Southeast Asia' Suarez tells how this is 'one of the few maps to show any trace of Francis Drake's presence': the eastern coastline of Sulawasi, where Drake ran aground, is indented for the first time to reflect the problems Drake had there; and on the south of Java the otherwise dotted line representing the unknown coastline contains a bay where Drake landed, marked 'Huc Franciscus Dra. Appulit'. The sea battle top right illustrates the Battle of Fortune Island, just outside Manilla Bay, December 14th, 1600. The Dutch admiral Olivier van Noort sank the Spanish flagship San Diego but lost Eendracht, forcing him to break off his privateering activities off the Philippines. The wreck of the San Diego was discovered and the 34,000 recovered artefacts form a permanent exhibition at the Museum of the Filipino People. Hondius was a religious refugee in London from 1583, so it is likely that he became familiar with Drake's accounts during this time. On his return to Amsterdam he published an enlarged edition of Mercator's atlas, 1606, in which this map first appeared.

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