

AFRICA IMAGINED

A selection of maps from the Hugh Solomon Collection
Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service



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INTRODUCTION: THE HUGH SOLMON MAP COLLECTION

As fascinating visual timelines of African history, the Stellenbosch University Library's historical Africana map collection never fails to capture the imagination of students and visitors alike. It could be the recognition of the shape of Africa, slightly distorted in the older maps, or the recognition of a place name, misspelled and in the wrong place, which grabs the attention. It might even be the vignettes depicting mythical ferocious beasts of darkest Africa, but some element of these curious testimonials of time fuels the imagination of any person who chooses to look closer.

A selection of eighteen maps from the unique Hugh Solomon collection is presented and described here. The maps included were selected for various reasons: Some tell a story about our country and continent and its people, others are unique, scarce or particularly well preserved, and some are quite simply beautiful.

The Hugh Solomon map collection is housed in the Africana section of the JS Gericke Library, main library of Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service. The maps form part of the greater Hugh Solomon Collection which was donated to the Library and Information Service in 1958. Consisting of approximately 1300 items, including books, pictorial Africana and maps, the collection focuses on early European accounts of travel to Africa, especially Southern Africa, and forms the core of the comprehensive Africana collection preserved by the Library today.

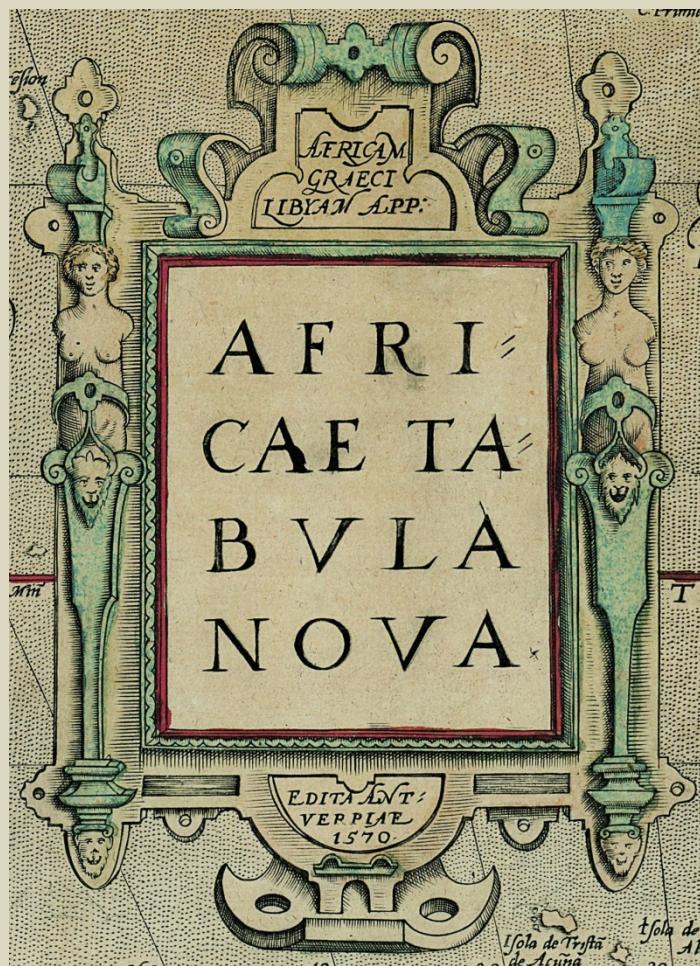
Hugh Ross Solomon (1876-1956) was a lawyer based in Johannesburg, South Africa. In addition to being a distinguished legal practitioner, Solomon had varied interests and passions and a great love of people and concern for those in need. He was Chairman of the Johannesburg General Hospital for 25 years, becoming a legend in the history of South African hospital services. He was also president of the National Cancer Association, President of the Transvaal Law Society and long-standing member of the Africana Museum Committee in Johannesburg.

Solomon inherited the Africana collection of his father, Sir Edward Philip Solomon, and in his own lifetime added much to the collection. Sir Edward Philip Solomon (1845-1914), also a lawyer and member of General Louis Botha's Transvaal cabinet, started collecting in 1909. His efforts and his son's subsequent collecting resulted in one of a few comprehensive private Africana collections in the country. In 1952, when the collection was still in private hands, a number of maps were generously lent to the City of Johannesburg Public Library and Africana Museum for an Exhibition of Decorative maps of Africa up to 1800. This attests to the value of the collection being recognised by collectors and historians alike.

The oldest map in the collection, Abraham Ortelius's "Africæ Tabula Nova Edita Antverpia", dates from 1570, depicting a recognisable, but not precise, outline of our continent. The most recent map in the collection is "Map of Africa with the latest discoveries" by James Wyld (1855) and depicts a rather more detailed and comprehensive picture of the continent as we know it today. The collection also has two irreplaceable manuscript maps of which no printed copies have been traced. These unidentified sea charts depict False Bay and the Cape of Good Hope. Other significant maps in the collection include 19th century maps of smaller regions of South and Southern Africa which are of particular interest to scholars of South African history as they display considerable detail including

contemporary boundaries and routes, such as Henry Hall's 1856 map of the Eastern Frontier of the Cape Colony and the well-known 1834 South African map published by the 'Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge', considered to be one of the best maps of the Cape at that period.

Today the approximately one hundred maps in the collection, all dating from before 1860, have been restored professionally and are either conservation-framed or stored flat in acid free mountings. The maps are of significant value to researchers and to make them accessible to a wider audience, the collection has recently been digitised with funding from a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The maps are now openly accessible on the Library and Information Service's Digital Collections platform to any researcher or enthusiast in the world.



Africae nova descriptio

by Willem Janszoon Blaeu (1571-1638)

[1630]

41 x 55 cm

This copperplate engraving is one of the most popular and decorative maps of Africa dating from the 17th century. Willem Janszoon Blaeu was a noted Dutch cartographer and publisher of the period. His business later passed on to his sons and the Blaeu family produced an astonishing output of maps and atlases.

This specific map, with Latin text on the reverse, is believed to be from 1630 or 1631. It was reprinted several times between 1631 and 1667 with texts in different languages and published as a standard feature in Blaeu atlases. The 1617 version of this map, however, was originally published separately and indicated authorship as *Auct: Guil Janssonio* on the cartouche. Blaeu then changed this and the post-1630 versions feature *Auct: Guilielmo Blaeuw* on the cartouche.

The map is celebrated for its decorations which depict the nine principal African cities of the period as a top border and ten couples of costumed African figures in two side borders. The map itself also contains illustrations of elephants, lions, ostriches, sea creatures, ships, a compass rose and a rather magnificent “sea horse” near the Island of St. Helena.

One of the noteworthy couples of figures represented is the early inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope (*Cap:bonæ Spai habitatores*), bottom right. The top border of cities also notably feature *S. Georgius della Mina* which is situated in today's historical town of Elmina in Ghana. This castle, or fort, was built in 1482 and was an important point of contact between European traders and the people of Africa. It is also one of the oldest European buildings outside of Europe. From descriptions of what the original building would have looked like, it seems as if Blaeu's depiction could be quite accurate. Today St. George's d'Elmina Castle is preserved as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





Aethiopia Inferior, vel Exterior. Partes magis Septentrionalis, quae hic desiderantur, vide in tabula Aethiopiae Superioris

by Willem Janszoon Blaeu (1571-1638)

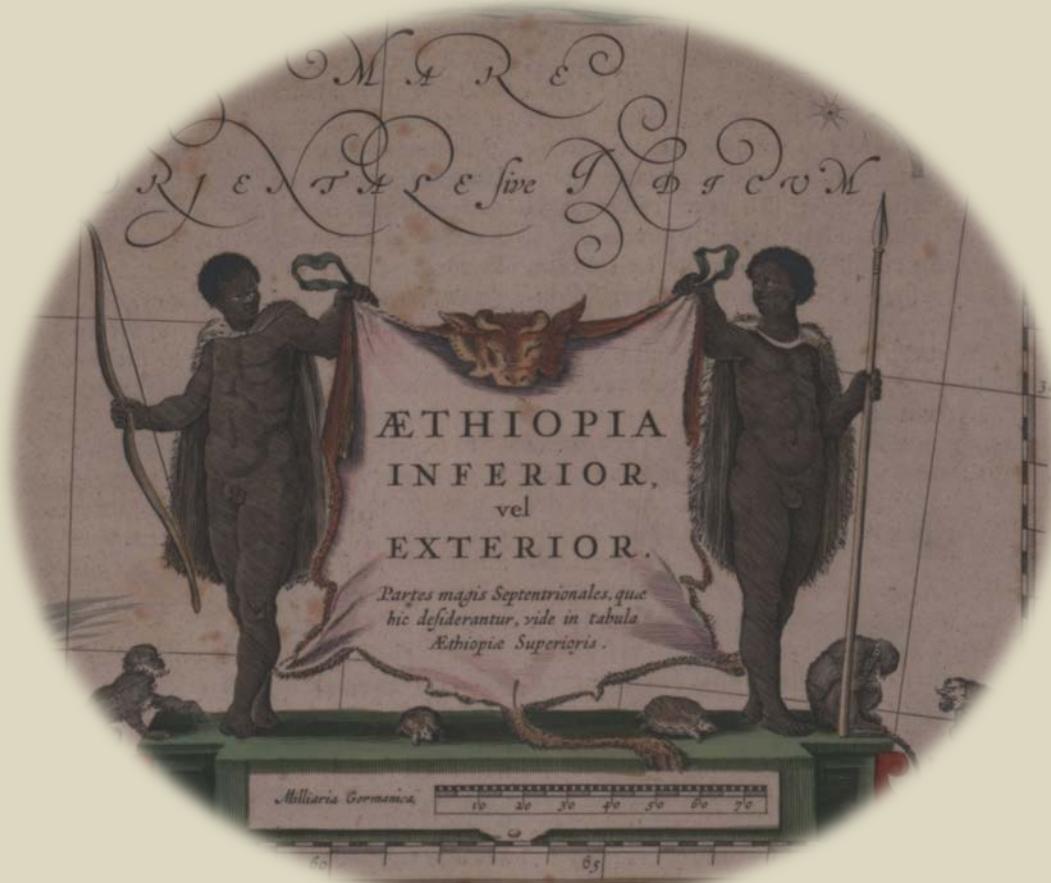
1663

38 x 50 cm

This is the second map of the family Blaeu in the collection. The map was first issued by Willem Janszoon Blaeu in 1635. This copy is from the 1663 French edition of the *Atlas Maior*, published by Blaeu's sons Joan and Cornelis after his death. The map contains French text on the reserve.

The map went through various editions and printings as many maps from the prolific Blaeu family did and was frequently copied by other publishers. It is, however, viewed as the standard map of Southern Africa for the 17th century.

The map is well-known for its unique cartouche in the bottom right corner. The text appears on an ox skin supported by two native inhabitants with tortoises and monkeys as additional illustrations at the foot.



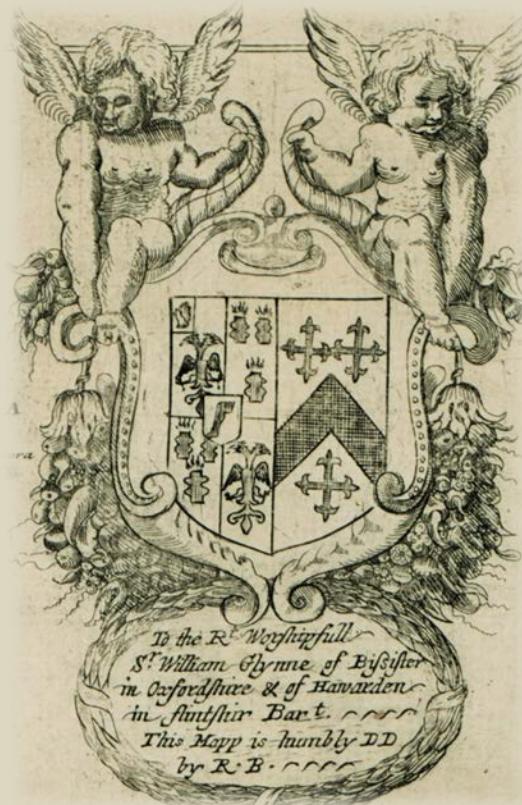


A Mapp of the Higher and Lower Aethiopia
by Richard Blome (1635[?]-1705)
[1669-1683]
30 x 40 cm

Richard Blome's map was originally created in 1669 and copied from one of French Geographer Nicolas Sanson's maps of Africa. This variation of the map occurs in Blome's 1683 edition of Bernhard Varenius's *Cosmography and Geography*. Blome acknowledges the source of the map in his title. The map features a heraldic dedication to Sir William Glynne of Bissister, signed R.B. by Blome.

Blome was an English publisher of geographical works and maps. He started his career, however, as a heraldic painter and became quite an expert in arms-painting. Heraldic arms as part of dedications to sponsors appear frequently on his maps as Blome actively sought sponsorships for his maps and books and was one of the first to employ this advance subscription model to finance his projects. Patrons would give money in advance and would then be ensured of a dedication on a map.

There have been various allegations of plagiarism against Blome, especially with regard to his most famous publication, *Britannia*, but it can be argued that Blome's role was one of compiler rather than author. Despite these allegations and his less than perfect reputation, Blome can today be credited with being a shrewd businessman and making geographical texts and maps available for English readers of his age.





Cape of Good Hope. (Sea chart).

1726

50 x 72 cm

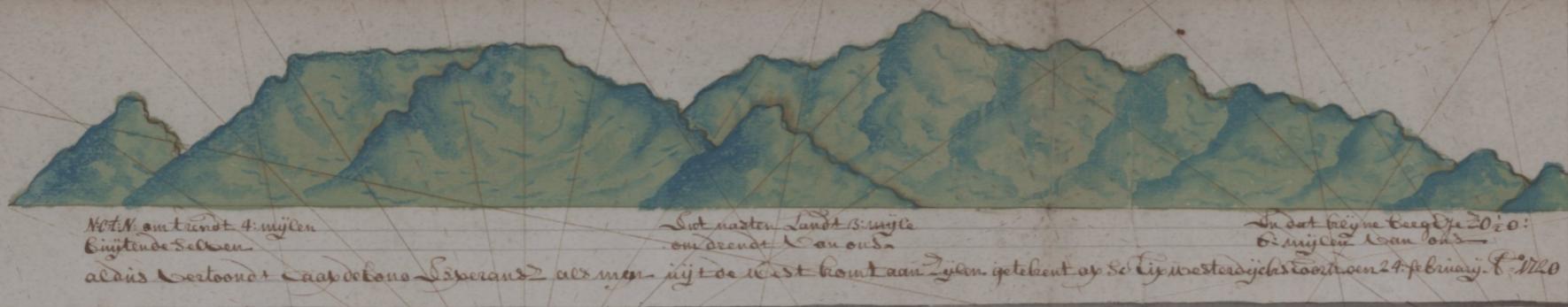
This manuscript chart has been described and noted as unidentified in the descriptive catalogue of an exhibition of decorative maps of Africa up to 1800 held by the City of Johannesburg Public Library and Africana Museum in 1952, when the map was still the private property of Hugh Solomon.

The coloured map shows the area of Saldanha Bay on the west coast of the Cape of Good Hope in 1726. The unknown creator of the map uses the name *Sardinie Bay*, which was a common incorrect variation of the name Saldanha Bay. Other variations such as “St. Aldanha Baaij”, “Sardaijne Baai” and “Schardini Baaij” also appear on maps and documents of the time. Named after Portuguese captain Antonio de Saldanha, Saldanha Bay was an outpost of the Dutch East India Company. On the map a building with a Dutch flag is depicted and described as the Company’s post and more importantly, a structure described as a “water rock” is also depicted lying north east of the building (the compass rose on the map indicates that east is at the top). This structure must have been the fountain which supplied fresh water to ships calling there. The map was apparently sketched on board the Dutch ship *Wintbont*.

The chart also includes three unique insets. At the top there is a view of the mountains as seen when sailing into Table Bay from the west. According to the creator of the chart, this view was sketched on the Dutch ship *Westerdijcks* on 24 February 1720. The second inset, top right, is of Table Bay and shows the fort, or castle, in Cape Town quite clearly. Various other detailed descriptions and images can be seen, including a structure depicted on Robben Island.

The third inset, bottom right, depicts a view of the Cape of Good Hope as seen from a ship lying anchored in the bay beneath homes of the *burgers* (citizens) and the castle under the command of the Dutch East India Company. This view is particularly interesting as it depicts the castle, a jetty and various other buildings, including a church. On the far right a few crosses are depicted in an area which is known today as Green Point and was the site of the Company’s burial ground.





The South Part of Africa, and the Island Madagascar

by Herman Moll (d. 1732)

1732

21 x 28 cm

This map of the southern part of Africa appeared in Moll's *Atlas Minor; or a Set of Sixty-two New and Corrected Maps*, printed for John and Thomas Bowles in London. The atlas saw a few editions and many printings, continuing after Moll's death. The map appears on page 44 of the atlas.

Herman Moll was of Dutch origin but worked and settled in England. He was very industrious there in the 18th century, publishing more than 25 atlases and geographical works.

Moll was fond of placing long legends (engraved paragraphs of text) in blank spaces on his maps. On this map he gives the following legend at the Cape of Good Hope: *Here the Dutch have a Settlement to supley Ships with Water and Provision*, which was of course the case in 1732. Interestingly, he Anglicises the name of Robben Island, referring to the island as *Robin I.*

The map in its title also pays particular attention to Madagascar and mentions the Portuguese settlement and trade of the period on the island. The Portuguese, French and English all made attempts to settle the island from 1500, but with limited success.



A New & Accurate Map of the Southern Parts of Africa

by Emanuel Bowen (d. 1767)

1747

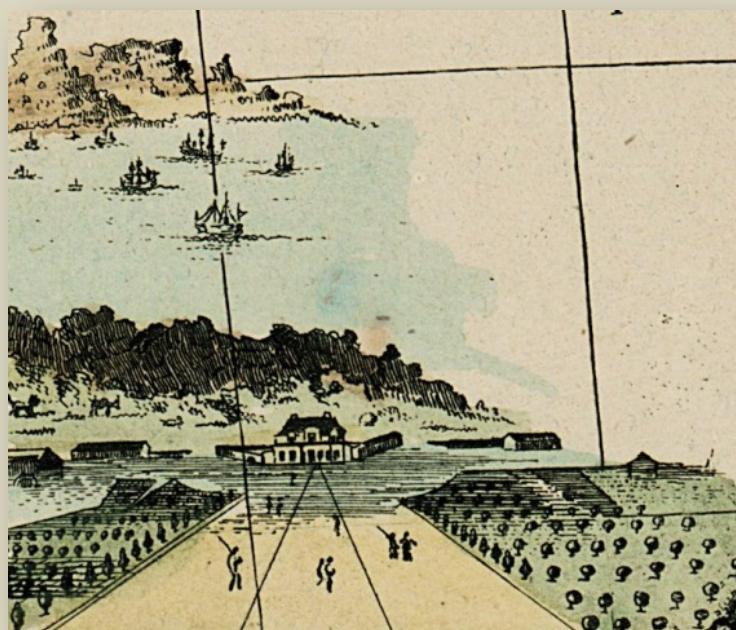
34 x 43 cm

This map of Emanuel Bowen first appeared in 1747. It also appeared in his *Complete system of Geography* (London). Bowen, an engraver and map maker from South Wales, was well known for the legends (engraved paragraphs of text) he inserted in various places on his maps, as can be seen on this map, which depicts Africa south of the equator.

The map features a cartouche in the form of headstone with a tiger and lion, at the base of which a line scale is given in English and French leagues. There is also group of huts and Khoi figures depicted to the left of the cartouche, and to the right, a distant view of Table Bay with ships. In the foreground, a farm believed to be Vergelegen, home of WA van der Stel, early governor of the Cape and son of Stellenbosch founder, Simon van der Stel, is depicted. The map also features the district of Stellenbosch, although incorrectly spelled *Hellenbok*, which together with the representation of the farm Vergelegen, makes it significant in terms of our local history.

From a South African historical viewpoint the naming of the various Khoikhoi tribes, e.g. *Goringaiquas* and *Sonquas* on the map is significant, as is the naming of the southern extremity of Africa as the *Country of the Hottentots and wandering Caffres*, suggesting the nomadic behaviour of some indigenous tribes.

From a broader African point of view, the names of the African kingdoms, the positions of lakes, mountains and rivers are all significant. This, together with the famous Bowen "legends" such as *K. of Fungeno, where the Portuguese are said to trade for cloth made of the bark of trees*, and the mountain range which the local people referred to as the *Back Bone of the World* make for a truly unique and interesting African map.





Nieuwe Kaart van de Kaap der Goede Hoope en der na by gelegen Landen

by Isaak Tirion (d.1769?)

1763

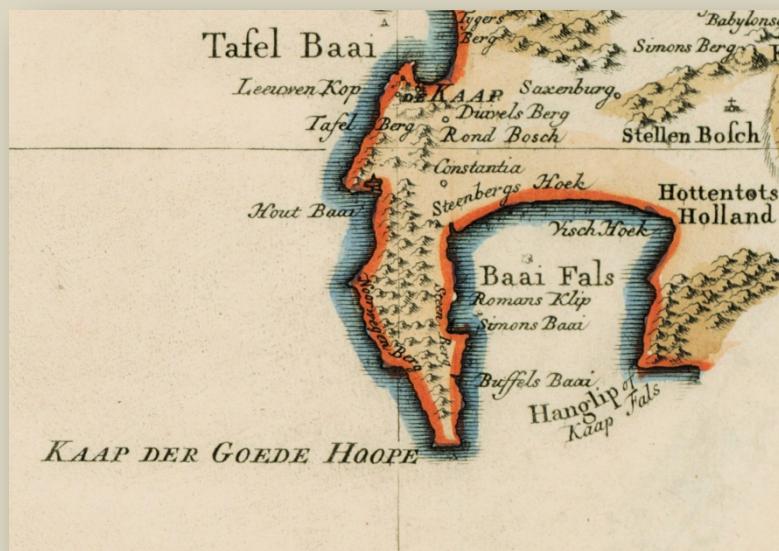
31 x 22 cm

Isaac Tirion was a Dutch bookseller and publisher based in Amsterdam. This map of the Cape of Good Hope and surrounds appears in his *Hedendaagsche historie of tegenwoordige staat van Afrika* (contemporary history and current state of Africa) which formed part of his multi-volume *Hedendaagsche historie of tegenwoordige staet van alle volkeren*.

Tirion based the map on the research of French mathematician and astronomer, Abbé de la Caille, in 1752 and also states this fact in the title box in the upper right hand corner of the map.

Particular attention is paid to the naming of mountains in this map and Tirion even names Devil's Peak (*Duivels Berg*) and Lion's Head (*Leeuwen Kop*) flanking the iconic Table Mountain.

In this map the most easterly point of False Bay is still referred to as *Hanglip* and not "Hangklip" as it is known today. The original Dutch name translates as 'hanging lip' and refers to the shape of the mountain at this point. According to research on South African place names, the modern form "Hangklip", which means 'hanging rock' seems to be a corruption of the original name.



16 17

NIEUWE KAART

van de

KAAP DER GOEDE HOOPE

en der na by gelegen Landen

Volgens de Afmetingen

van den Uit DE LA CAILLE in 1752.

Te AMSTERDAM by IS. TIRION 1763.

St Heleens Baai

Klip Fontein
Kapiteins Kloof

Berg Rivier

Patrijs Berg

Groene Fontein

Riet Kloof

Klip Bank

Saldanha Baai

Kleine Zwarte Berg

Groote Zwarte Berg

Lang Berg

Dassen Eiland

ZWARTE LAND

Zwarte Berg

Schaff plaat Fonteinen

Uyle Kraal

Vyge Kraal

Drie Fonteinen

Riebeeks Kasteel

Groene Kloof

Keesenbosch

Capoc Berg

Contre Berg

Baviaans Berg

Dassen Berg

Paarden Berg

Blaauwe Berg

Paarle Berg

Drake kasteel

Blaauwe Berg

Joosten Berg

Koe Berg

Bottellary

Babylonsche Loeren

Simons Berg

Fransche Hoek

Leeuwen Kop

KAAP

Saxenburg

Tafel Berg

Duvels Berg

Rond Bosch

Constantia

Steenbergs Hoek

Hout Baai

Visch Hoek

Buffels Baai

Hanglip Fals

Klap Fals

KAAP DER GOEDE HOOPE

Schaal van Fransche Toijes, of halve Roeden,
waar van 57037 de 34^e graad uitmaaken.

10 20 30 40 50 34 35 30000

34 Gr. bovenste Teneriffe 0 10 20 30 40 50 35

10 20 30 40 50 34 35 30000

34 Gr. bovenste Parrys 0 10 20 30 40 50 35

Africa vetus

by Nicolas Sanson (1600-1667)

1667

40 x 56 cm

Nicolas Sanson is known as the father of French cartography and was the first of three generations of the Sanson family of cartographers. He is credited with creating a landmark map of Africa in 1650, depicting new information which had not been documented on earlier French maps. Sanson had a scientific approach to his work and his maps are usually less ornate than their Dutch counterparts. His work was frequently copied and recognised for its geographic superiority.

This map of Africa, *Africa vetus*, shows Africa as it was before 16th century European discoveries of Southern Africa and Sanson follows Ptolemy with the representation of the interior of the continent. The name of the map translates as “Africa in antiquity” and was one of a series of maps describing parts of the ancient world.

Few place names or rivers appear in the southern part of the continent and the inhabitants of Southern Africa are referred to as “Anthropophagi Aethiopes”, meaning cannibals.





A Draught of Cape Bona Esperanca

by John Seller (c.1632-1697)

1675

45 x 54 cm

This coloured chart by John Seller appeared in the 3rd book of the *English Pilot* by Seller, as well as in his *Atlas Maritimus*, 1675. Seller was an industrious and inventive English chart and map seller and also a maker of navigational instruments. He was appointed hydrographer to the King in 1671.

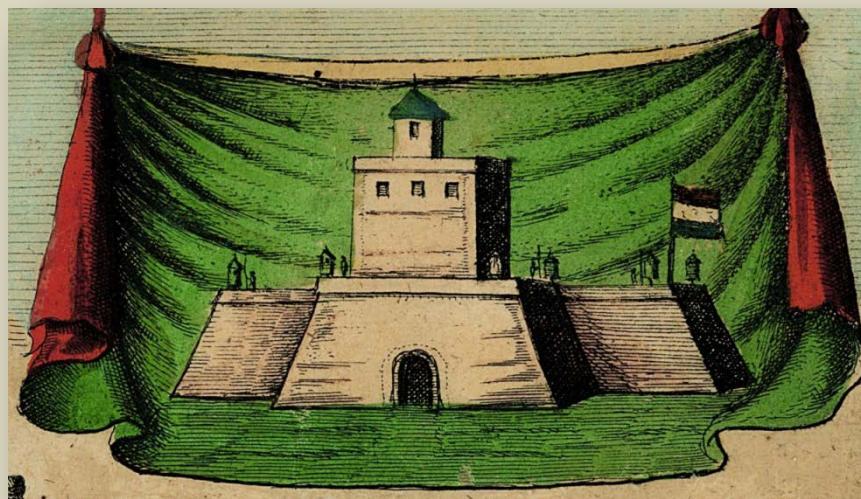
Seller often bought old and discarded Dutch copperplates from which he erased the Dutch titles, replacing them with English titles and publishing it under his own name. One possible reason for this practice is that he was unable to collect sufficient English surveys.

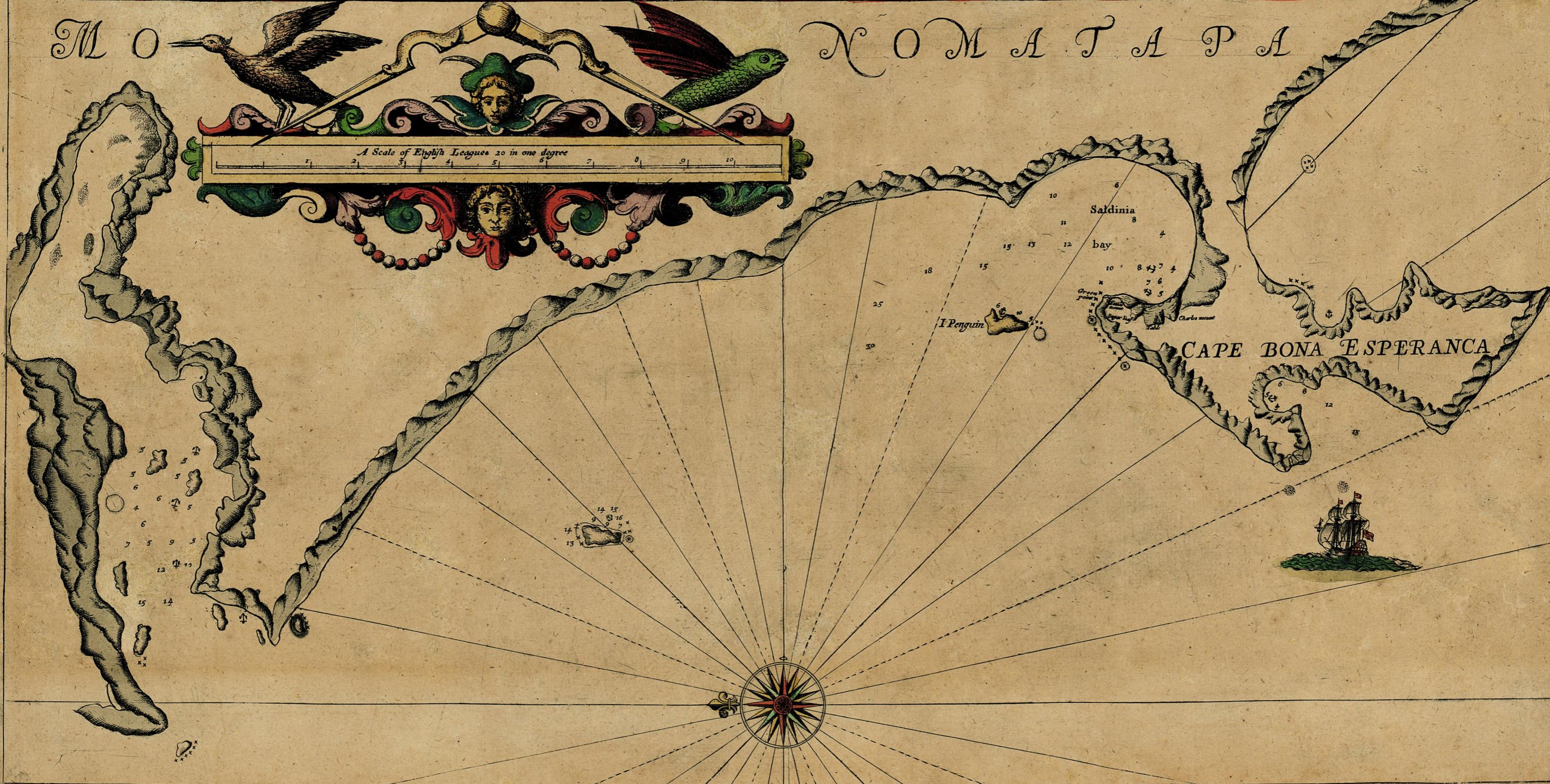
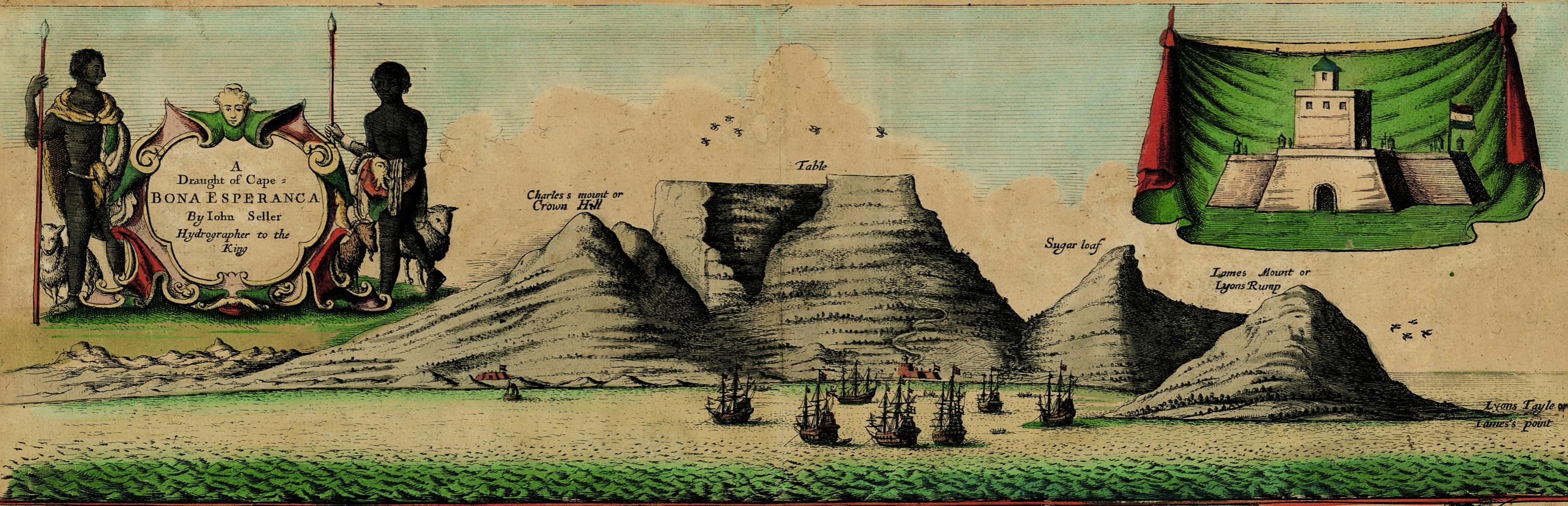
This chart shows a perspective view of the Cape of Good Hope and depicts ships in Table Bay, Table Mountain, the Dutch fort and one other built structure as well as a pathway leading up the mountain. He refers to Devil's Peak on the left of Table Mountain as *Charles's mount or Crown Hill* and to Lion's Head on the right as *Sugar loaf*.

In the top right corner of the chart an inset depicts a fort with the Dutch flag flying and detail such as spear-holding guards at posts on the walls. Believed by some to depict Jan Van Riebeeck's fort at the Cape, others dispute this, as existing plans for the fort do not apply to the building depicted here. There has been a suggestion that the image depicted is in fact the coat of arms of the Dutch town of Middelburg.

The top left corner shows the title in a decorated cartouche depicting two figures of indigenous inhabitants posing with two fat-tailed sheep and a goat. Fat-tailed sheep were indigenous to South Africa and kept as livestock by local Khoi people and often described by early European travellers.

Below the view and insets is a map of the coast with a large, decorative scale. The word *Monomotapa* appears on the map. The interior of Southern Africa was commonly referred to as Monomotapa (the Mutapa State), the name of the Southern African kingdom which existed in an area of the continent which is now Zimbabwe.





Africae pars meridionalis cum promontorio Bonae Spei

by Tobias Conrad Lotter (fl.1778)

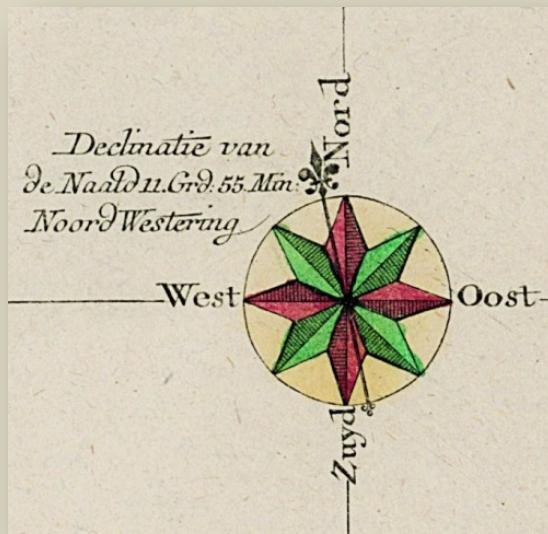
1778

47 x 55 cm

This map is believed to be from the *Atlas Géographique de cent et huit cartes générales et spéciales par les géographes* by Tobias Conrad Lotter, a collection of 18th century maps made in Germany, published in 1778. The map features a dedication on what appears to be a piece of cloth blowing in the wind.

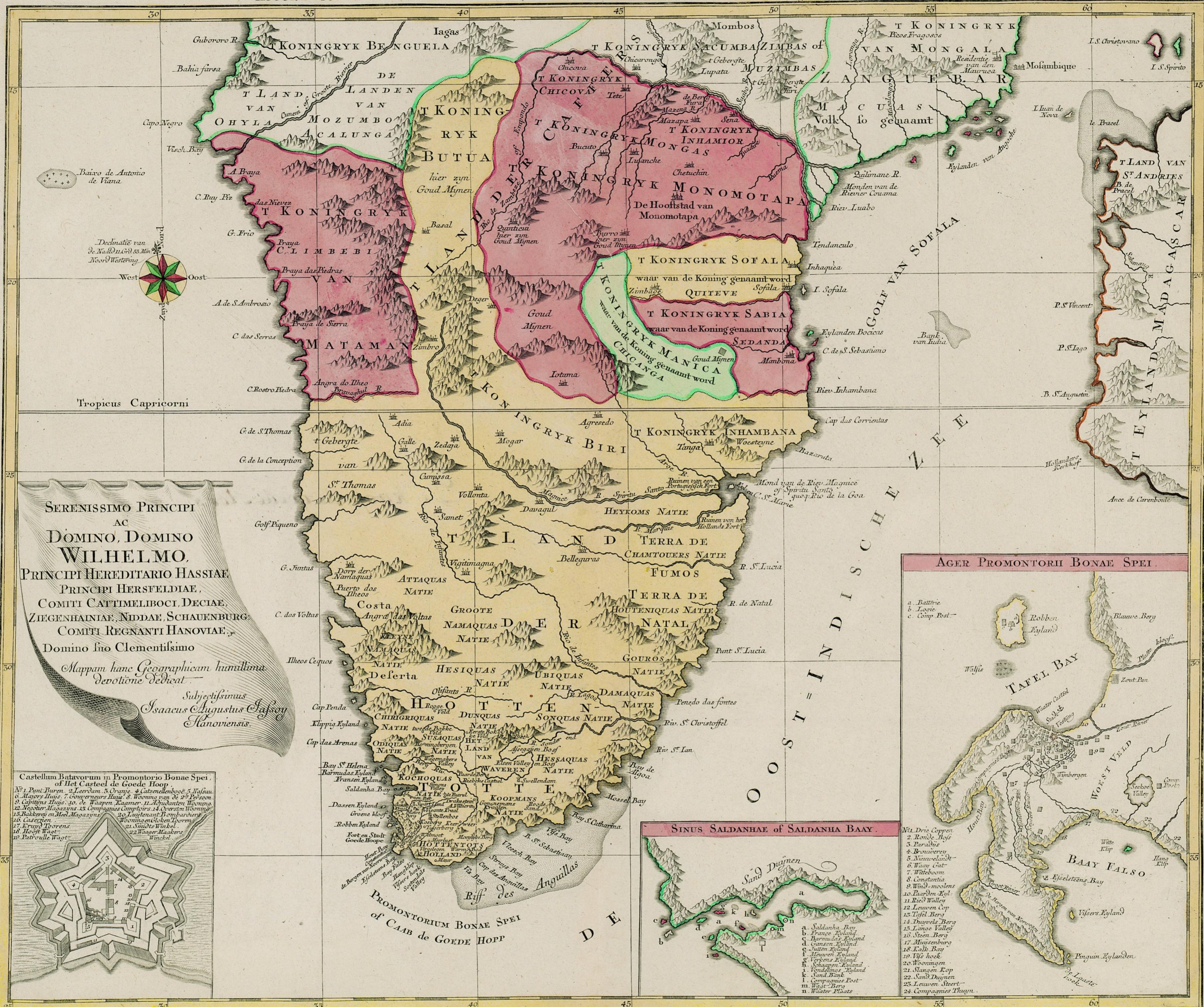
The map features three detailed insets at the foot of the map: the fort, or castle, at the Cape (*Castellum Batavorum in Promontorio Bonae Spei of Het Casteel de Goede Hoop*) on the left and in the right corner, *Sinus Saldanhae* or *Saldanha Baay* (Saldanha Bay) and *Ager Promontorii Bonae Spei* (Cape of Good Hope). These insets are very descriptive, the one of the castle even indicating an arsenal and bakery. The inset of the Cape of Good Hope fairly accurately depicts settlements and industries on the Cape Peninsula such as *Nieuvelandt* (Newlands today) and the brewery (*Brouwery*) in the vicinity.

The map itself features not only names of towns and districts, but also names of farms such as *Welmoet* and *Vergelegen* and even a proprietor's name, *A. Villiers* (presumably a farm owner with the surname De Villiers). Names of tribes such *Koopmans Natie* (nation) and *Sonquas Natie* also feature on the map. The coastline of Africa is not accurately depicted, causing this map to stand out visually from some of its contemporary counterparts.



AFRICAE PARS MERIDIONALIS CUM PROMONTORIO BONAE SPEI,
ACCURATISSIME DELINEATO OPERA TOBIAE CONRADI LOTTER, GEOGRAPHI AUGUSTAE VINDELICORUM.

ACCURATISSIME DELINEATO OPERA TOBIAE CONRADI LOTTER, GEOGRAPHI AUGUSTAE VINDELICORUM.



The Dutch Colony of the Cape of Good Hope
by Louis Stanislas D'Arcy De La Rochette (1731-1802)
1782
50,5 x 33 cm

This is the first edition of the cartographer and engraver Louis Stanislas de la Rochette's map of the Dutch Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. The map was reissued in 1795 and again in 1838 under the title *Cape District, Cape of Good Hope*.

The map depicts an area of the Western Cape with False Bay in the south and the Drakenstein mountains as the eastern boundary. The map indicates buildings, native "kraals" (livestock pens), fountains and river crossings and the locations of early settlers. It features a cartouche depicting an elephant hunt and has a scale in Dutch miles, English miles and nautical leagues. A lettered table of place names can be found on the left.

This map is one of a few of the period depicting detail of a smaller areas. From a local historical point of view this map is quite significant. The map indicates the large area which the Stellenbosch District covered in the 18th century. The district included Bottelary, Stellenbosch, Moddergat and Hottentots Holland. It also shows the location and names of early settlers such as *Van der Byl Appels* and *Catarina Cloeten*. Specific buildings, such as the church in Stellenbosch, are indicated, as are specific farms, e.g. WA van der Stel's Vergelegen. WA van der Stel was an early Cape governor and son of Stellenbosch founder, Simon van der Stel.



False Bay. (Sea chart).

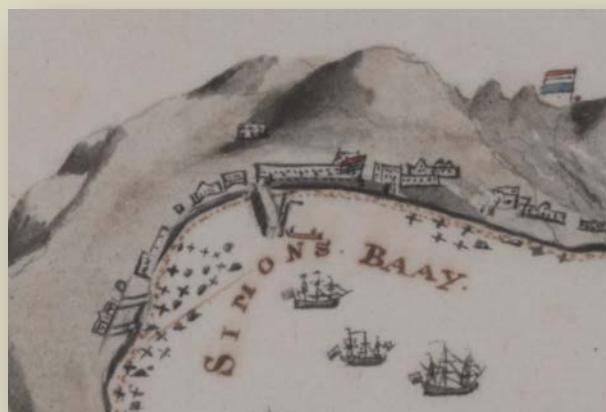
1788

48 x 70 cm

This fascinating sea chart of False Bay dates from 1788 and as no printed copy of this map has been traced, it is assumed that this is the original chart made by an officer during the course of his duties on the ship *Ian and Cornelis* under the command of Captain Claas Duyff of the Dutch East India Company. The work is unfinished, with an open space left for a dedication. The artwork on the map is quite elementary and typically lacking the artistic touch which would have been added if the map had made its way back to Europe into the hands of a professional publisher or engraver. The paper on which the chart has been drawn carries a watermark which was used on paper made in Amsterdam in c.1709.

From what can be traced it seems as if the Dutch East India ship *Ian and Cornelis* called at the Cape twice. The ship had quite a small crew (around 50) of which not all seems to have been present on the return voyage to Europe. According to this chart the ship was at the Cape on 6 June 1788 which falls in the middle of the Cape winter. It could be possible that the ship was at anchor in Simon's Bay in False Bay, as ships often anchored in the calmer, protected waters of False Bay in the winter when Table Bay was lashed by wind and storms.

According to historians at the Simon's Town Museum, the map quite accurately depicts the settlement at Simon's Town, the village pictured above *Simon's Baay* on the chart. One interesting feature depicted on the map is a terraced garden which was called *Klein Tuyn*, meaning small garden, on the outskirts of the village. This garden was established by the Dutch East India Company to grow fresh fruit and vegetables to supply calling ships, much the same as the famous and much larger Company's Garden in Cape Town. The garden was later replaced by a larger, new garden closer to the village.





A New Map of Africa from the latest authorities

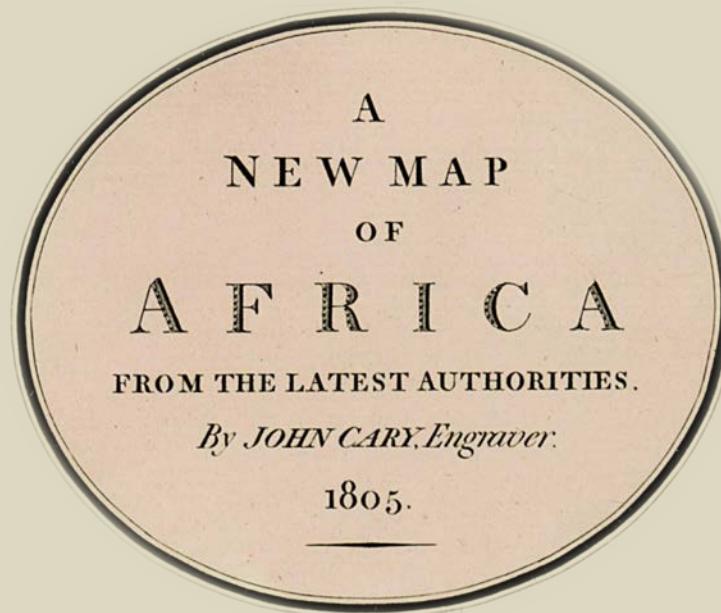
by , John Cary (1754-1835)

1805

47 x 53 cm

John Cary was a prolific English cartographer who in his lifetime produced globes, loose maps, road books, geological works and astronomical works, amounting to no less than one thousand publications in total. His engravings are appreciated for being elegant and exact with clear lettering.

In this map of Africa Cary shows all known information quite accurately. He presents quite an “honest” map of Africa as he leaves the largest part of the interior of the continent blank, describing it as *Unknown Parts*. Unlike many other cartographers, Cary was not tempted to fill in the blank spaces on his map with legends or imaginary places or even illustrations, leaving this map looking quite unique in comparison to others in the collection.



South Africa

by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, engraved by J. & C. Walker

1834

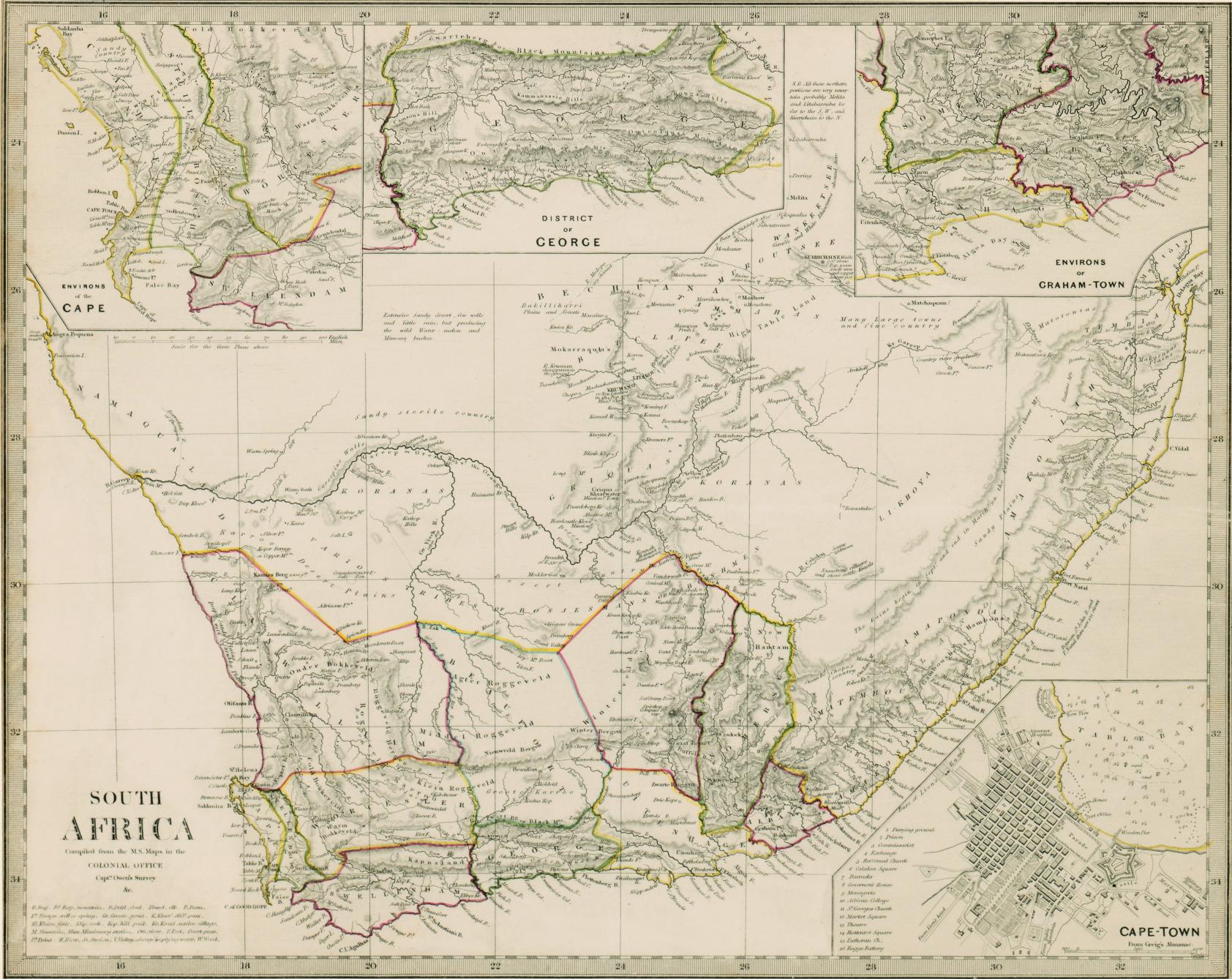
31,5 x 39 cm

This map of South Africa is generally considered to be one of the best maps of the Cape at this period. The map also has three important insets of areas around the Cape itself, the districts of George and Graham's Town, and a fourth of Cape Town from *Greig's Almanac*, a contemporary publication published and printed in Cape Town.

The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, conceived by Henry Brougham, was formed in 1826 with the aim of publishing and distributing authoritative printed material to the rapidly growing reading public at low prices. The Society wanted to improve and educate people through knowledge. They launched their first map publishing project within the first three years of the existence of the Society and would go on to produce a series of maps comprising more than 200 sheets.

The Society employed quality cartographers to engrave their maps and in this case used the firm of J. & C. Walker. Noticing that other maps of the period did not have the latest or correct information on South Africa, the Society actively sought the best and most accurate data for the map of South Africa. This resulted in this particular map still being viewed by historians as superior today.





Carte reduite du canal de Mozambique et des Isles de Madagascar de France de Bourbon

by Jacques Nicolas Bellin (1703-1772)

1767

59 x 87 cm

Bellin was a French cartographer who was attached to the Dépôt de la Marine as hydrographer to the King and was also member of the Royal Society of London. He was commissioned to map all the known coasts in the world, resulting in the publication of *Hydrographique Français* in two volumes, 1756-1765.

This decorative sea chart depicts the Mozambique channel with the islands of Madagascar, France, Bourbon (Reunion) and Rodrigues. The chart also shows two inset plans of the port of Seychelles and an inset plan for Assumption Island (*Plan de L'Isle de L'Assomption*). Bellin provides comprehensive information on the coast and the interior of Madagascar, depicting ports, rivers, mountains and vegetation on the island.



North Africa & South Africa

by John Thomson and Co.

1815

58 x 52 cm

John Thompson and Company were Edinburgh publishers who flourished between 1810 and 1860, issuing among others, a *New General Atlas* in 1814, 1819 and 1828. These two maps of Africa which show the north and the south of the continent separately, appeared in the *New General Atlas*.

The map of South Africa is of great historical significance. It clearly shows the Cape divided into four districts namely *Cape District*, *Stellenbosch District*, *District of Zwellingdam* (Swellendam) and *District of Graaff Reinet* (Graaff-Reinet). The map also importantly shows the route taken from and back to Cape Town, by missionary John Campbell during his travels to South Africa in 1813. Campbell was a Scottish missionary and traveller and sent to the Cape by the London Missionary Society. He published his *Travels in South Africa* in 1815 and the work became a sought after piece of Africana, especially known for his descriptions and depictions of the mission at Genadendal in today's Western Cape.

The map of South Africa depicts not only place names, rivers and mountains, but also provides descriptions of e.g. hot springs and areas where cave paintings have are to be found. Sometimes comments on features are also found, for example the comment on the Brak River to the north, which states *only a chain of Pools in Dry Season*.

The map of North Africa also shows the routes taken by explorers William George Browne, Friedrich Hornemann, James Bruce and Mungo Park.





NORTHAFRICA.

SOUTHAFRICA.

Afrique méridionale

by Adrien Hubert Brué (1786-1832)

1828

36 x 51 cm

This map of Southern Africa by French publisher Adrien Hubert Brué who published inter alia three atlases in his time namely *Atlas de France* (1820-1828), *Atlas Classique* (1830) and *Atlas Universel* (1816). This map is believed to be from a later printing of the latter atlas.

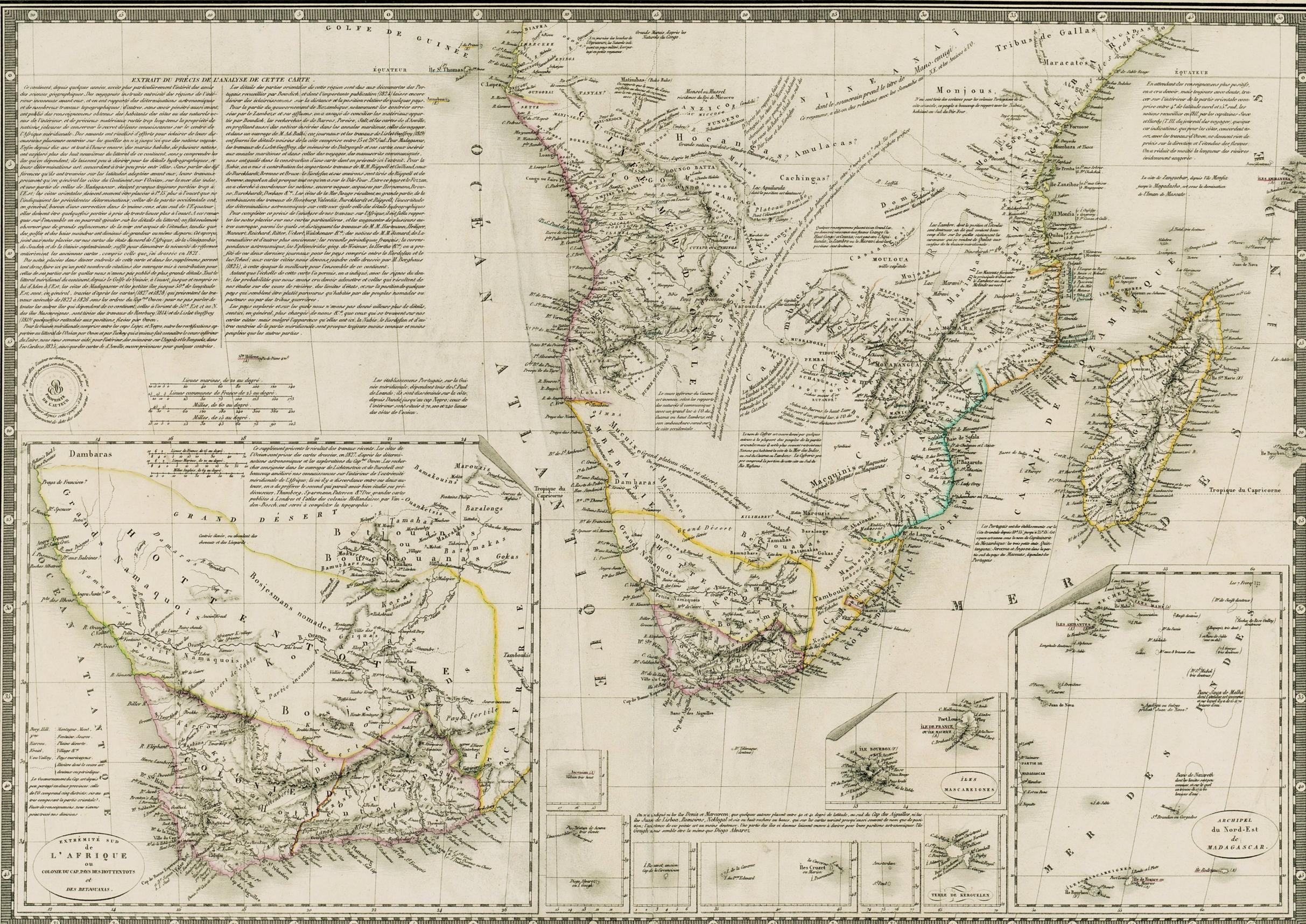
The map is unique in the very detailed insets it offers. One of the first to grab attention is the large amount of text appearing in the top left corner of the map. It offers quite a lengthy description of the early travellers and explorers to Africa. The other inserts depict mainly islands and the most significant regarding South African history is the large inset of the Cape Colony which appears in the bottom left corner of the map.

His depiction of the Cape Colony is quite accurate and relies on up-to-date early 19th century information on the area. The names of towns, rivers and mountains are accurately placed and he also features the names of indigenous tribes such as *Bosjemans* (Bushmen) and *Koranas*. He also offers the viewer a translation of words appearing on the map for example a translation of the word *Berg*, meaning mountain, and *Karrou* (Karoo) which he quite correctly translates as *Plaine déserte*. Following the translation he also offers a short explanation on structure of the Colony.



AFRIQUE MÉRIDIONALE.

ATLAS, en 65 feuilles, N° 53.



Carte de l'Afrique meridionale

by the widow of Nicolas Janz Visscher II (1649-1702?)

1710

51 x 58 cm

Nicolas Visscher (1649-1702) was part of the large Dutch family of mapmakers, engravers and publishers who established themselves in Amsterdam as early as 1605. This map was published by his widow, after also appearing in Frederik de Wit's *Atlas Major*.

The map depicts Southern Africa and has three insets, namely an elevation of Table Mountain, a plan of Table Bay and of considerable value in terms of our local history, an enlarged map of the Cape Peninsula and vicinity. The map depicts the various Dutch settlements at the Cape in that period with the names of the proprietors, e.g. Roelof Pasman, Simon de Groot, Gerrit Kloeten and Marten de Smit. It also shows the French settlement at Drakenstein (*Frans Quartier of Draakesteyn*) and depicts a church with the words *Franse Predikant*, meaning French priest.

The map also depicts *Kraalen* or settlements of indigenous tribes and other detail such as indicating farmland belonging to the Dutch East India Company (*Compagnies Bouw Landen*). Interestingly, the text on the main map is in French, but in the detailed inset of the Cape, the text and descriptions are in Dutch.



CARTE DE L'AFRIQUE MERIDIONALE OU PAYS ENTRE LA LIGNE & LE CAP DE BONNE ESPERANCE ET L'ISLE DE MADAGASCAR.
Par la Veuve de Nicolas Visscher avec Privilegia.
25 30 35 40 45

Par la Veuve de Nicolas Visscher avec Privilege.



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