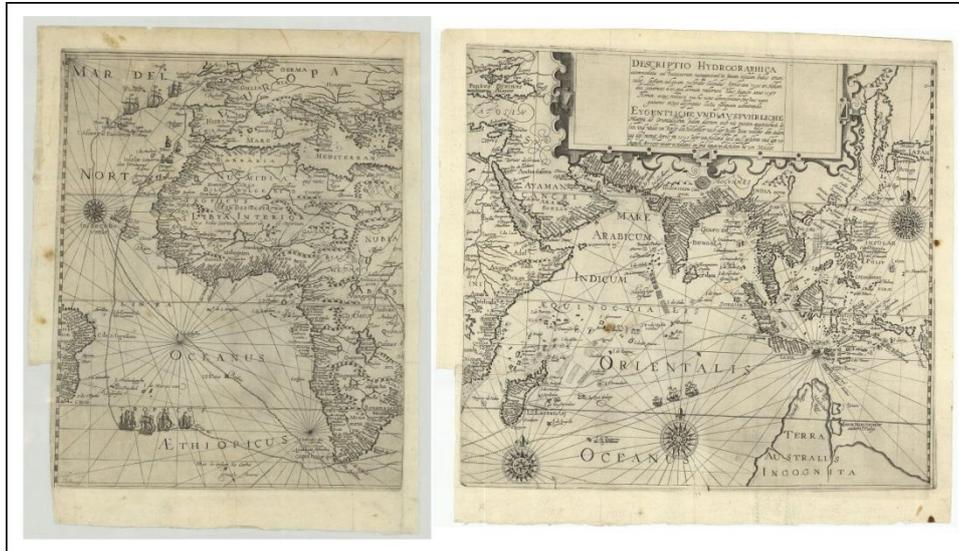


First Dutch Sea Voyage to the East (1595 – 1597)

Descriptio Hydrographica Accomodata ad Battavorum Navigatione in Javan Insulam Indie Orientales. Eygentliche und ausführliche mappa de Orientassischen Indien.



See the home page of the site for a high resolution image of this highlighted map.

Theodore de Bry (1528 – 1598) engraved this two-panel chart for the German edition of *Petit Voyages: Dritter Theil Indiae Orientalis*, published by De Bry in 1599 in Frankfurt. The map was republished in 1616 by Theodore & Israel de Bry. The two-panel chart is 34.9cm x 67.2cm. The AMPR records only eight sales in 33 years of the eastern hemisphere sheet and no sale of the western hemisphere or both together.

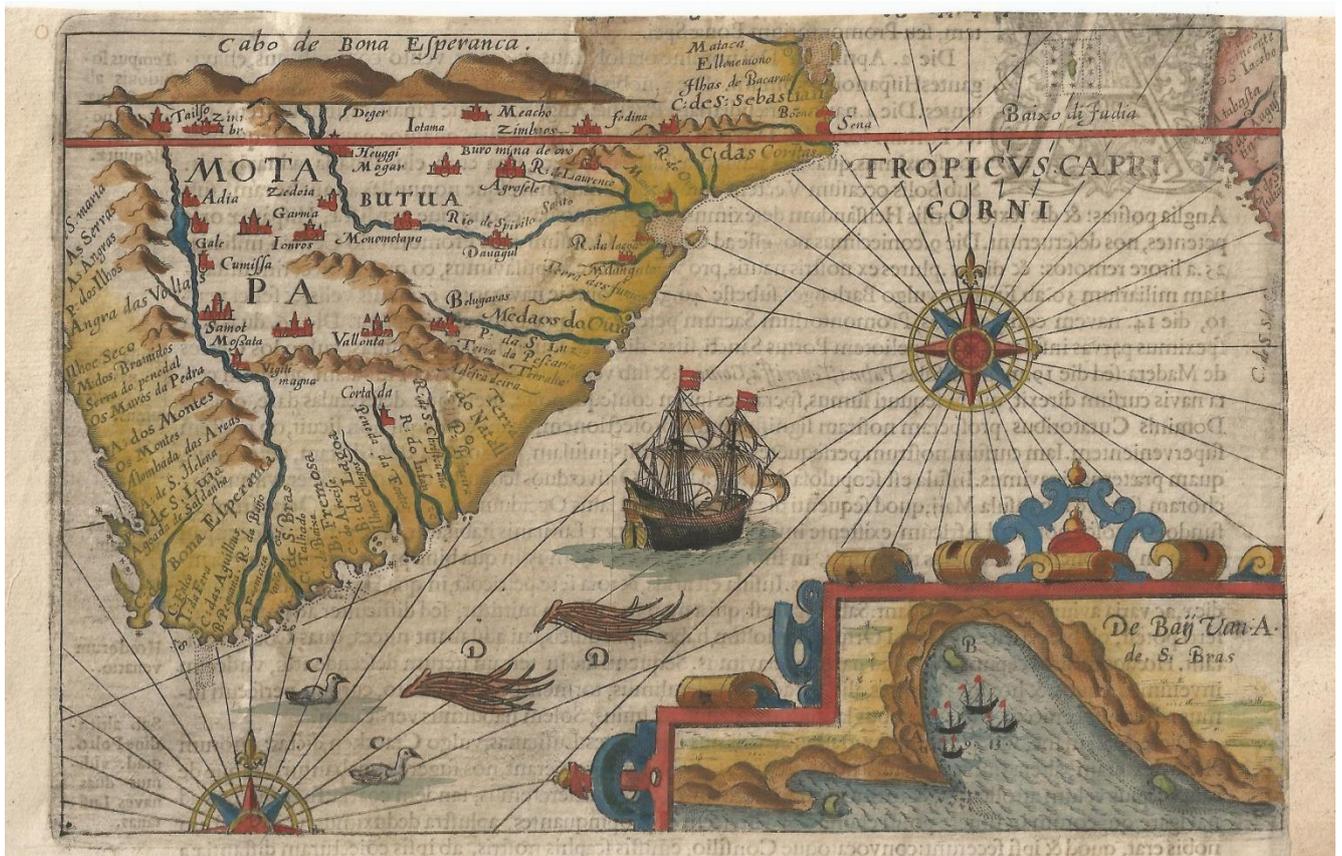
This map is based on a map published in 1598 by Cornelis Claesz, which was suppressed by the merchants (*Compagnie van Verre*, the long-distance company) who funded first Dutch voyage to the East Indies and Batavia. Therefore, the map was not included by Claesz in his *Historie van Indien*, which provided an account of the voyage. This voyage was the first step in the establishment of the Dutch spice trade; Dutch colonisation of Batavia; the merger of a number of *Compagnie van Verre* and other companies to create the *Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie, VOC*, (United East India Company) in 1602. The VOC established the Dutch settlement at the Cape of Good Hope in 1652.

On 2 April 1595 a small fleet under the command of the apparently undiplomatic Cornelis de Houtman departed from Texel for Bantam (Banten), Java. The chart illustrates the outbound and return routes suggested in Linschoten's *Reysgheschrift*, a copy of which was taken on board by De Houtman. The map illustrated an account of the voyage from the diary of Willem Lodewijcksz, who was aboard the ship, *Mauritius*.

Seventy members of the crew had died of scurvy when the fleet arrived at the island of Nosy Manitsa, in the Bay of Ampalaza on the south-western coast of Madagascar (I S Laurentij on the map). The dead were buried on the island, which now also is known as *Hollandse Kerkhof* (Dutch Cemetery). A collaborative project is underway to conduct an archaeological investigation on the island.

On 14 August 1597, three of the ships arrived back in Amsterdam; more than 150 of the crew had died, most from scurvy. Combating scurvy on voyages to the Far East was the main driving force behind the Dutch settlement at the Cape of Good Hope in 1652.

MOTAPA



Scarce map from the first Dutch voyage to Indonesia

This small map (21.6cm x 14.3cm) is from the journal of Willem Lodewijcksz (Norwich #206). The map was published in *Prima pars descriptionis itineris navalis in Indiam Orientalem, earumque rerum quae navibus Battavis occurrerunt* (Amstelodami: Ex officina Cornelij Nicolaj, 1598).

The first edition of the Lodewijcksz journal was in Dutch, followed in the same year by Latin and French translations. This later coloured example of the map is from the Latin edition of the journal; the Latin edition was republished in 1614 by Johannes Walschaert; an English edition was published in *A Collection of Voyages ...* London: Freeman; 1703. It seems that most extant examples of this map are from *Begin ende voortgangh der Vereenighde Nederlantsche*

geotroyeerde Oost-Indische compagnie (1646), a book on the VOC by Isaac Commelin, to whom the map sometimes is attributed.

The map includes the coastal names introduced by early Portuguese explorers and the interior is filled with cities and rivers, many of which are the stuff of legends. The inset map is of De Baij Van A. de S. Bras [Aguada de São San Bras, the Bay of the watering place of St Blaize]. This is today's Mossel Bay, in which the fleet under Van Houtman anchored; the nearby Cape St. Blaise is well known for its important archaeological site of early Khoi inhabitants. According to Lodewicksz's journal the letters on the map indicate: **A**, 'a small river whence we got fresh water'; **B**, 'A rock or islet where we took many penguins and sea-wolves [seals]', which is today's Seal Island, populated by the Cape Fur Seal; **C**, 'Birds ... seen near the Cape of Good Hope'; **D**, 'Trombás (presumably Kelp), of which many are seen adrift, also signs of nearing the Cape'; Kelp is a large seaweed that grows in abundance about the Cape of Good Hope (Cape Kelp species include *Ecklonia maxima*, *Laminaria pallida* and *Macrocystis angustifolia*).

The fresh water spring is near a famous tree, the base of which had been used since 1500 for leaving letters for. This old Milkwood tree (*Sideroxylon inerme*) was declared a national monument.



Mossel Bay Post Office Tree

Motapa, written across the map, is Monomatapa, an ancient Portuguese name for the southern part of Africa – a kingdom in and about today's Zimbabwe. The prominent state of Butua was renowned for gold trade with the Arabs and Portuguese. Soon after the Dutch settled at the Cape, they sent expeditions to the north in search of the legendary cities such as Vigiti Magna and Cumissa (on the map) in Monomotapa; they did not find the cities or the fabled riches.