



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Congo

**Stock#:** 95644  
**Map Maker:** Mallet  
**Date:** 1683  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 4 x 6.5 inches  
**Price:** \$ 125.00



### Description:

Alain Manesson Mallet's map of the Congo region, first published in Paris in 1683 as part of his magnum opus, "Description de l' Univers," is a striking historical artifact. It not only serves as a testament to Mallet's cartographic skill but also reveals much about European perceptions of West Africa during the 17th century. Although compact in size, the map's intricate detail, accurate for its time, coupled with its decorative elements, make it a valuable piece of historical cartography.

Mallet's map covers the Congo region of West Africa, an area significant in the 17th century due to its



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extensive trading networks, particularly in ivory and slaves, and the ongoing European exploration of Africa. The Congo River, a crucial waterway for the movement of goods and people, is a central feature of the map, indicating its importance in the regional geography and economic activities.

The attention to detail in Mallet's map reveals an early understanding of the region's physical geography, reflective of the state of European knowledge at the time. The depiction of rivers, coasts, and significant landmarks provides an insight into the information collected by European explorers and traders navigating the region.

"Description de l' Univers," the larger work that this map forms a part of, is widely considered one of the most significant works of its kind from the 17th century. Mallet's monumental undertaking aimed to depict the entire known world, including the peoples, fauna, and flora. The individual maps are renowned for their craftsmanship and the breadth of information they convey.

#### **Detailed Condition:**