



MARGARITA DE DIOS

## JANSSONIUS-HONDIUS - MAPA DEL PAÍS VASCO - 1640



**Subject:** Antique Maps. Cartography. Basque Country.

**Publication:** Amsterdam, Apud Ioannem Ianssonium, c. 1640.

**Technique:** Copperplate engraving, hand-colored with watercolor at the time.

**Description:** An antique map of Biscay and Gipuzkoa, engraved and first published in Holland in 1638. The map is the work of the renowned cartographer and publisher Jan Janssonius, and is part of the Atlas Novus, which the Dutch publisher expanded and completed together with Henricus Hondius.

**Jan Janssonius** (Johannes Janssonius, 1588-1664) was a Dutch cartographer and publisher, famous for his contribution to the Hondius Atlas. The relationship between Janssonius and Hondius began as a family matter, since in 1612 the former married Elisabeth de Hondt, daughter of Jodocus Hondius. Janssonius was the son of a Dutch publisher and bookseller, and produced his first maps in 1616, corresponding to France and Italy. In 1623 he owned a bookstore in Frankfurt and later also had branches in other European cities. In 1630, Janssonius partnered with his brother-in-law Henricus Hondius and they began publishing the famous Mercator/Hondius/Janssonius atlases. Under the name Atlas Novus, in 1638 the work consisted of three volumes; in 1646 another volume on Maps of English Counties was published. In 1660 the atlas changed its name to Atlas Major: by then it consisted of eleven volumes, with the participation of about one hundred authors and engravers. The volumes include an atlas of cities, one of the seas and another of the ancient world, in addition to an Atlas of the Heavens by Andreas Cellarius. After the death of Janssonius, his son-in-law Johannes van Waesberg became the owner of the publishing house.

Reference: MD-8765

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