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Asiae Nova Descriptio

Stock#: 100535
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1609
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,500.00



Description:

Ortelius' second plate of his map of Asia, from *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern world atlas.

Asia is defined from the Red Sea and Turkey east to New Guinea and south to the north coast of Java. The steppes host hordes or nomadic tribes, including the Bashkirs (*Baschidorum horda*) and Merkit (*Mecritorum horda*).

In China, the former smuggling port of Lampo (Shuangyu) and the major trade cities of Ningbo (Nimpo) in Chequan (Zhejiang), Quanzu (Quanzhou), and Guanzu (Guangzhou) appear. At the site of today's Beijing is Cambalu, a corruption of Khanbaliq, which was the winter capital of the Yuan Dynasty at the time of Marco Polo's travels. Quinsai or Hangzhou, where Marco Polo reportedly visited, is shown in the northeastern reaches of China. A river connects the fictitious Cajamaj Lacus (otherwise known as Lake Chimay or Chiang Mai) to Lac Salsus (Qinghai Lake). Two ships sail east from China.

The map has a marvelous mis-projection of Japan and Southeast Asia and a very distinct Northeast Passage. The Philippines is misshapen and incomplete, lacking Luzon. Sumatra, which *The Travels of Marco Polo* had conflated with Java as *Javor Minor*, is mapped along with a Java Major and Java Minor. Tidore and Ternate, rival sultanates in the lucrative clove trade, are in the Moluccas. New Guinea, so-named by Yñigo Ortiz de Retez on the Villalobos Expedition, which occurred during Ortelius' lifetime, has some detail on its northwestern coast.

Detailed Condition:



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Engraving on 17th-century laid paper. Original hand-coloring. Minor toning at centerfold. Minor foxing mostly in blank borders. Spanish text on verso (1609).