



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[English Edition!] Chinae, olim Sinarum regionis nova descriptio. auctore Ludouico Georgio.

Stock#: 71123
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1606
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18.5 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 7,500.00



Description:

Very Rare English-Language Edition of the Ortelius Map of China.

Fine example of Abraham Ortelius's map of China, from the exceedingly rare English edition of his *Theatrum*, published only in one year - 1606.

Ortelius' map of China is taken directly from reports of the Portuguese mapmaker Luis Jorge de Barbuda (Ludovicus Georgius), who made a manuscript map of China that reached Ortelius via Arias Montanus. First published in 1584, Ortelius' map of China is the earliest printed map to focus on China and the first to illustrate the Great Wall of China. Tooley referred to the map as the standard map of the interior of China for over sixty years. With its three lushly designed cartouches and many illustrations of indigenous shelters, modes of transportation, and animals, this is one of Ortelius's richest engravings.

When this map appeared, it was by far the most accurate representation of China to appear on a printed map. Japan is shown on a curious curved projection reminiscent of Portuguese charts of the period with Honshu dissected along the line of Lake Biwa. The Great Wall is shown, but only a relatively small section, its length is significantly underestimated. The Tartar "yurts" are dotted across the plains and steppes of Central and East Asia.

The Portuguese Jesuits established a mission in China in 1577. Although the map's Portuguese maker, Barbuda, was himself not a Jesuit, his sources for the map were Portuguese Jesuits. The Chinese



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characters found in the text on the verso of the map were the first introduction to the Chinese language for many educated Europeans of the time.

The English Ortelius

The 1606 edition of Ortelius's *Theatrum* is both the most important English-language world atlas ever published and the most desirable edition of any of Ortelius's atlases. At 161 engraved maps it is among the largest of Ortelius's atlases, including many of the best Johannes Baptista Vrients plates that were published after Ortelius's death, and exceed the preceding Ortelius maps in their quality of engraving and rarity.

"The book was the largest ever printed and published in England up to that date, measuring at least an inch more than uncut copies of the Bishop's Bibles of 1568, 1572 and 1602, or the Genevan versions in black letter of 1578-83... No surviving copies are known to exist on the European continent [i.e. excluding copies in the British Isles]" (Wardington Catalogue).

States

There are 3 states of the map:

- State 1: Pre-dates the words "Las Philippinas" above Sinus Magnus
- State 2: "Las Philippinas" added during the publication of the 1587 French edition
- State 3: Additional cross-hatching in one of the wind wagons, which first appeared on the map during the publication of the 1595 edition

Detailed Condition: