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Chinae, olim Sinarum regionis nova descriptio. . .

Stock#: 20316
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1587
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 14.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine early example of Ortelius' map of China, the first western map of China drawn directly from reports of the Portuguese mapmaker Luis Jorge de Barbuda (Ludovicus Georgius) who made a manuscript map of China which 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.

The Portuguese Jesuits established a mission in Chinese in 1577. Although the map's Portuguese maker, Barbuda, was himself not a Jesuit, his sources for the map were Portuguese Jesuits. The Chinese characters found in the text on the verso of the map were the first introduction to Chinese language for many educated Europeans of the time. From the 1587 French edition of Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas of the World.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling in upper margin, else near fine.