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Statua Regum Europaeorum P.C.M. Nomina Continens.

Stock#: 35387
Map Maker: Seutter
Date: 1728 circa
Place: Augsburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 22.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

One of Matthäus Seutter's magnificent allegorical figures of the 'colossal kings' from his *Atlas Novus*.

This fascinating print elegantly captures the ethic of the absolute monarchy that prevailed across Europe well into the 18th-century. The scene is dominated by the strong figure of a king, adorned with his crown and sceptre. Written throughout the king's person are the names of the various kingdoms of Europe, which correspond to the coats of arms that adorn the surroundings.

Allegorically, the scene is meant to show that all of the power, and indeed the political identity, of almost all European states was vested in one man - the Absolute Monarch. While Seutter's depiction is original in style, it follows a long line of anthropomorphic portrayals of power as invested in the body of the king. Perhaps the earliest such representation is Sebastian Münster's 'Lary Europa' (1540) (or Europe embodied by a Queen, representing the Spanish Empire). Another evocative image can be found on the frontispiece of Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* (1651), which figuratively shows the powers of all a kingdom's subjects being subsumed to form the body of a great kingly power.



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Seutter published this work as one of four prints of 'colossal kings', which first appeared in his *Atlas Novus* (1728), with subsequent editions issued up to 1761.

Detailed Condition: