



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Untitled Frontispiece, English Royal Coat of Arms]

Stock#: 36024
Map Maker: Coronelli
Date: 1690 circa
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 13 x 18 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A finely engraved allegorical frontispiece by the eminent cartographer Vincenzo Maria Coronelli.

This highly attractive composition features the Royal Arms of England, including a garter featuring the motto: 'Honi Soit Mal Qui Pense' (Evil to him who thinks Evil). Below is the allegorical figure of Hercules bearing a tablet with another English royal motto: 'Dieu et Mon Droit' (God and my Right). To the right is the personification of the English Empire, 'Britannia', bearing the sceptre and orb of royal authority. To the left is St. George, the patron saint of England, slaying a Dragon. Likewise, Britannia and Hercules are shown to be vanquishing Britain's enemies below. The rhetoric is one of unadulterated Anglo power during a period when England was engaged in a long series of wars with Louis XIV's France.

Vincenzo Maria Coronelli (1650-1718) was one of the leading cartographers and globe-makers of the Baroque era. Born in Venice, he apprenticed as a xylographer, before joining the Franciscan order in 1665. Around 1678, after studying Astronomy, Coronelli began working as a geographer and was



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commissioned to make a set of Terrestrial and Celestial Globes Ranuccio II Farnese, the Duke of Parma, which were 5 feet in diameter. Coronelli was next invited to Rome to construct a similar pair of Globes for Louis XIV. From 1681 to 1683, Coronelli lived in Paris, where he constructed a pair of 10 foot diameter globes for the King that weighed 4000 pounds. These spectacular globes are today on display at the Bibliotheque nationale de France (Paris).

Coronelli then returned to Venice where he published his great atlas, the *Atlante Veneto* (1698) and founded the *Accademia Cosmografica degli Argonauti*, the world's first geographical society.

Detailed Condition: