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Nova Et Accurata Iaponiae Terrae Esonis Ac Insularum . . . (Korea shown as an island)

Stock#: 38424
Map Maker: Jansson
Date: 1658 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 18 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The first printed folio map of Japan to show the Maarten De Vries' discoveries in Hokkaido and the Kurile Islands.

This important map of Japan shows the three southern main islands, Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku in a relatively advanced form, broadly familiar to the modern eye. Many cities and towns are labelled, including the capital city of Meako (Kyoto) and Iedo (Tokyo).

The revolutionary features of the map are the 'Landt van Eso' (the northern part of Hokkaido), which was then outside of the Japanese state and further north, 'Compagnies Land' named after the Dutch East India Company, is a somewhat fanciful rendering of the island of Iturup in the Kurile Islands. These areas would not be accurately charted until the 1787 visit of the French explorer Comte de La Perouse.

Korea, which was made 'off-limits' to foreigners by the ruling Joseon Dynasty, is little understood and is shown to be an island. The sole place name in Korea is 'Tauxem', located approximately at the modern day site of Pyongyang. The map is elegantly embellished with 2 decorative cartouches, 4 ships, 2 compass roses and a sea monster.

The genealogy of the map is very interesting. The basic template for the southern main islands was Abraham Ortelius' *Iaponiae Insulae Descriptio*, which was first printed in the 1595 edition of his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. Ortelius, in turn, based the map on a manuscript sent to him in 1592 by Luís Teixeira, a Portuguese Jesuit who served as the official geographer to Spain's King Philip II.



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In 1643, the Dutch adventurer Maarten Gerritsz de Vries (1589-1647), aboard his ship the *Castricum*, sailed around the waters of Honshu and Kyushu. However, by accident (driven by a storm), De Vries became the first European to visit Hokkaido, the Kurile Islands and Sakhalin.

Jansson acquired manuscript versions of De Vries's charts via his contacts with the Dutch East India Company (the VOC), and first published a small-sized version of the map as part of his *Atlas Minor* (1651). Jansson issued the first edition of the fine present folio-sized version of the map in 1658.

Jan Jansson (1588-1664) was a towering figure of the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography. He married the daughter of the tenement Amsterdam cartographer Jodocus Hondius and transformed the Hondius firm into a powerhouse of geographical publications. Jansson most notably published the *Atlas Novus* (1638) and the *Atlas Major* (1660), the 11 volumes of which included a town atlas, a hydrographic atlas, an atlas of the ancient world, and Andreas Cellarius's incomparable celestial atlas. Jansson's works were rivaled only by those of his arch-nemesis Joan Blaeu.

Jansson's map is one of the most important 17th Century map of Japan, and an essential element of any collection.

Detailed Condition: