La Chine Royaume . . . 1656

Stock#:　38739
Map Maker:　Sanson

Date:　1656
Place:　Paris
Color:　Hand Colored
Condition:　VG+
Size:　21 x 16 inches

Price:　SOLD

Description:

Important Early Map of China, Based Upon Jesuit Sources.

First state of Sanson's scarce map of China and Korea, first published in 1656, one of the earliest maps to incorporate the geographical information brought back to Europe by the Jesuit Missionary Martino Martini, who is widely regarded as the father of Chinese Geographical science.

Martini was the first to study the history and geography of China with rigorous scientific objectivity. The extend of his knowledge of the Chinese culture, the accuracy of his investigations, the depth of his understanding of things Chinese are examples for the modern sinologists. Ferdinand von Richthofen calls Martini "the leading geographer of the Chinese mission, one who was unexcelled and hardly equalled, during the XVIII century...There was no other missionary, either before or after, who made such diligent use of his time in acquiring information about the country".

Sansonson also credits the 16th Century Jesuit Missionaries Matteo Ricci and Michele Ruggieri in the text section of the cartouche.

The map extends to include the northern tip of the Philippines and a curiously curved Korean peninsula. Korea was usually shown as an island until the middle of the 17th century, so Sanson's depiction is a significant cartographic improvement. The Great Wall forms the northern boundary and the map is filled with rivers, mountains and villages.

A detailed explanation panel in bottom right is surmounted by Pheme, the personification of fame and

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renown.

Detailed Condition: