



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

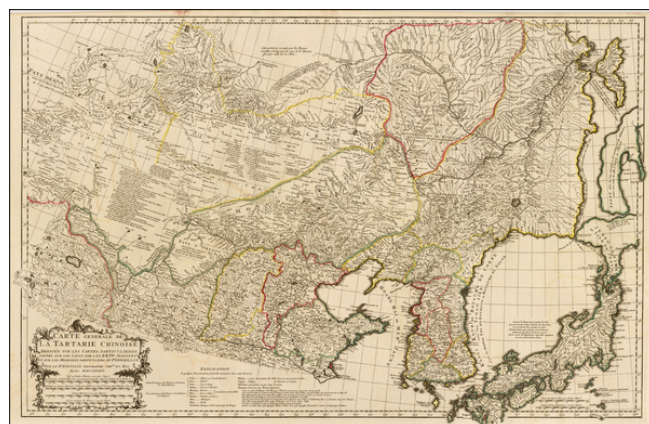
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Carte Generale De La Tartarie Chinoise Dressee sur les Cartes Particulieres Faits Sur Les Lieux Par Les R.R. P.P. JesuitesMDCCXXXII

Stock#: 39062
Map Maker: d'Anville
Date: 1737
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 32 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of D'Anville's map of the region from Japan to the Gobi Desert, centered on Mongolia and Korea, from D'Anville's Atlas of China.

D'Anville's atlas of China is the principal cartographic authority on China during the 18th century. D'Anville used maps prepared by Jesuit missionaries and commissioned by Emporer-Kanyx, who in 1708-1716 ordered a surveying of the country. A copy of these surveys was sent back to Paris and the Royal cartographer D' Anville was commissioned to draw this map, which was the first reasonably accurate picture of that remote land.

The map is more than just a geographical document; it represents a historical intersection between East and West during a period of exploration, discovery, and attempted understanding.

Rendered in intricate detail, the map was born from the works of the Jesuit missionaries, who were on a divine mission in the remote corners of China. The Jesuit Order, a Roman Catholic religious congregation known for its educational, missionary, and charitable works, embarked on this mission intending to spread Christianity while fostering a cultural exchange that would bridge the gap between the East and West.

The map unfurls across an expansive geographical area, depicting the vast expanse of China and its adjoining territories known collectively as Tartary, a term used by Europeans until the 19th century to denote a vast region spanning from the Caspian Sea and the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, inhabited mostly by Turkic and Mongol people.

Its compilation was a result of painstaking fieldwork, indigenous sources, and astronomical observations, a



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testimony to the meticulousness and devotion of the Jesuits. With this map, the Jesuits laid a foundation for a more accurate understanding of China and its environs, correcting numerous inaccuracies from the maps of the previous era.

The "Carte Generale De La Tartarie Chinoise" provides an elaborate vision of China's topography, including mountains, rivers, and cities. But what's remarkable about this map is that it also includes intricate details about the socio-cultural aspects of the region, such as significant pilgrimage sites, indigenous tribes, and notable landmarks. The map effectively acted as an ambassador, carrying the cultural and societal nuances of China back to Europe, where such information was scant at best.

The Jesuit missionaries' work in early 18th century China went beyond mere cartographic endeavors. They immersed themselves in the Chinese culture, language, and customs, establishing a dialogue that was based on mutual respect and understanding. This philosophy was embodied in a policy known as "accommodation," where they attempted to find common ground between Christian and Confucian teachings to ease the propagation of Christianity. These missionaries worked in close quarters with Chinese scholars, contributing to advancements in various fields including science, mathematics, and astronomy.

The Jesuits' efforts to improve the maps of China reflected their broader scientific ambitions. They sought to reconcile their observations with indigenous geographical knowledge to create a more accurate representation of the territory. These endeavors required not only scientific rigor but also linguistic proficiency and cultural acuity, all of which were characteristics that the Jesuit missionaries possessed.

The "Carte Generale De La Tartarie Chinoise" is more than a mere geographical document. It is an embodiment of the cultural, intellectual, and religious journey undertaken by the Jesuits in the 18th century. The map represents the fruit of an unprecedented collaboration between East and West, bridging cultural divides and fostering understanding, a beacon of the Jesuit motto "Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam" - For the Greater Glory of God.

Detailed Condition: