



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Descriptio Chorographica Regni Chinae [Huang Ming yitong fang yu bei lan -- Comprehensive view map of the Imperial Ming]

Stock#: 41737
Map Maker: De Bry
Date: 1628
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 13.5 x 11 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare early map of China, published by Theodore De Bry in his *Historiarum Orientalis Indiae tomus XII*, first published in 1628.

De Bry's map of China is based upon Samuel Purchas' highly important 1625 map of China, which is widely regarded as the first map of China western published map to have been derived directly from Chinese sources.

The Purchas map of China is based upon a Chinese woodblock sheet map, which had been acquired by Captain John Saris in Bantam sometime between December 1608 and October 1609. Saris, then serving as chief factor in Bantam for the East India Company, had taken it from a Fujianese merchant in partial settlement of a debt owed to Saris. Saris in turn delivered the map to Richard Hakluyt, who in turn gave the map to Purchas during the time period when Purchas was translating Hugo Grotius' *Mare Liberum*.

Purchas included the map in his 1625 *Hakluytus Posthumus or, Purchas his Pilgrimes*, a collection of travel writings, based on the work of the famous geographer, Richard Hakluyt (1552-1616). Purchas refers to the map as

The Map of China, taken out of a China Map printed with China characters, etc. gotten in Bantam by Capt. John Saris.



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**Descriptio Chorographica Regni Chinae [Huang Ming yitong fang yu bei lan --
Comprehensive view map of the Imperial Ming]**

The title transliterates as "Huang Ming yitong fang yu bei lan," meaning Comprehensive view map of the Imperial Ming. The original Saris-Haklyut-Purchas map was written entirely in Chinese. Because Purchas could not translate the map, he removed the Chinese characters from the body of the map, using symbols to depict the towns, rivers and mountains.

It is possible that this Chinese map was the 1593 "Cao Map", of which there is now only one recorded example.

Squares and circles depict cities and settlements. The provinces of China are marked and boundaries shown, for perhaps the first time on a Western map. Macau and Canton (Guangzhou) are both named. The vignettes in the corners depict Matteo Ricci and a Chinese couple.

The map is perhaps the most influential map of China published in the first half of the 17th Century. The general construction of the map is a significant improvement from Ortelius' map of China of 1584, which is drawn directly from reports of the Portuguese mapmaker Luis Jorge de Barbuda (Ludovicus Georgius), who made a manuscript map of China which reached Ortelius via Arias Montanus.

A nice example of this map of landmark importance in the history of the mapping of China.

Detailed Condition: