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Il Regno Della China detto presentamente Catay e Mangin diviso sopra le Carte piu esatte nella sue Principali Provincie Da Giacomo Cantelli di Vignola . . . 1692

Stock#: 53015
Map Maker: Rossi - Cantelli da Vignola
Date: 1692
Place: Rome
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 16.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare 17th Century Italian Map of China

Finely colored example of this rare early map of China, Japan and Korea, along with neighboring regions, by Cantelli da Vignola and published in Rome by Rossi. The map was engraved by Giorgio Widman for Rossi's *Mercurio Geografico*.

The map identifies a number of important early sources, including Martini, Tavernier, Giovanni Grueber and Benedetto Goes. Macao is shown, but pre-dating Hong Kong. The Great Wall of China is prominently depicted. Formosa is shown as Loqucio o Formosa I. The name Taiuan o N. Zelanda also appears next to the island.

Korea is shown as a long narrow peninsula, with a number of cities named. Ezo is depicted as part of mainland Asia. Embellished with an superb baroque title cartouche surmounted by an Eastern potentate and flanked by brimming cornucopiae and mermaids.

Bento de Gois (1562-1607)

This is one of the few maps we have ever seen to identify Goes as a source. Bento de Gois was a Portuguese missionary and explorer. He is best known as the first known European to travel overland from India to China, via Afghanistan and the Pamirs. Inspired by controversies among the Jesuits as to whether



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the Cathay of Marco Polo's stories is the same country as China, his expedition conclusively proved that the two countries are one and the same, and, according to Henry Yule, made "Cathay... finally disappear from view, leaving China only in the mouths and minds of men".

Johann Grueber (1623-1680)

Grueber was an Austrian Jesuit Missionary and astronomer, who went to China in 1656, where he was active at the court of Peking as professor of mathematics and assistant to Father Adam Schall von Bell. In 1661 his superiors sent him, together with the Belgian Father Albert Dorville (D'Orville), to Rome in order to defend Schall's work on the Chinese calendar (He was accused of encouraging 'superstitious practices').

As it was impossible to journey by sea on account of the blockade of Macau by the Dutch, they conceived the daring idea of going overland from Peking to Goa (India) by way of Tibet and Nepal. This led to Grueber's memorable journey (Dorville died on the way), which won him fame as one of the most successful explorers of the seventeenth century (Tonniere). They first travelled to Sinning-fu, on the borders of Kan-su; thence, through the Kukur territory and Kalmyk Tartary, (Desertum Kalnac), to Lhasa. They crossed, amid difficulties and hardships, the mountain passes of the Himalayas; arrived at Kathmandu, Nepal, and thence descended into the basin of the Ganges: Patna and Agra, the former capital of the Mughal empire. This journey lasted 214 days.

Emperor Leopold I requested that Grueber return to China via Russia in order to explore the possibility of another land route through central Asia, but the journey ended at Constantinople as Grueber fell seriously ill and was forced to return.

Detailed Condition: