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[The United States in North America | Russian Empire in Europe] [Kita-Amerika-nai Gasshukoku | Yoroppa-nai teikoku Roshia]

Stock#: 55548
Map Maker: Anonymous Kawaraban
Date: 1855 circa
Place: Japan
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 9.5 x 12.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

This kawaraban shows the portraits of two officers, an American and a Russian, with explanatory text printed around these figures it reflects the interest in these two powerful countries following their arrival in Japan in 1853. It seems likely that the two men depicted are Commodore Matthew C. Perry and Vice-Admiral (later Count) Yevfimy Vasilyevich Putyatin, although neither are named, as both visited Japan during 1853 in an effort to open trade with Japan. The accompanying texts describe the United States and Russia respectively.

The text gives details in turn about the United States and Russia. The section on the United States, titled "United States in North America", explains the growth of nation from having eight states, to the large country it was at the time of publication, of 32 states. It explains that the king of the country does not gain power by the dismissal of their predecessor, but rather that from the country as a whole a brilliant person is selected to become the chief administrator of the country. This person prescribes the laws of the land.



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This system is known as a republic. The capital is Washington and although originally Europeans established the United States, the behavior of the people is different to those in Europe. It goes further to describe the people as gallant, learned and law abiding. It reports the United States, though a little colder than Japan, is rich. It is located about 5,000-ri away from Japan to the east.

Titled Russia Empire in Europe the second section reports that Russia is the biggest country in the world and that it consists of 51 states. The capital is St Petersburg and the country so large that it is not possible to measure. It reports that the Russian General of all the forces Peter the Great was the most powerful and effective leader of any army in European history. Mention is also made of his fondness for Russian folk arts. The text describes the Russian people as gallant but quite aggressive.

Detailed Condition:

Short tear into the Russian officer's leg from the lower left edge. The whole sheet backed on another sheet of paper and mounted on an album page.