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[Commodore Perry's Arrival in Edo Bay]

Stock#: 55565
Map Maker: Anonymous Kwaraban
Date: 1853
Place: Japan
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 15 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Japanese Newspaper Broadside Showing the Arrival of Commodore Perry's Ships

Woodcut-printed Kwaraban showing cannons emanating from the hull of an American "black ship" of the sort used by Commodore Perry. The ship is imposingly depicted, with high masts, a hellish steam wheel, and numerous canons.

The arrival of Perry into Japan was a turning point for the nation's history, as it forced the country to abandon its traditional isolationist policies and open itself to western trade. Perry's men, and the black ships they sailed, were a center of attention for late Edo Period Japan.

Kwarabans (literally, "roof tile prints") are broadside newspaper prints that were distributed across Japan and told of major events, such as natural disasters and changes of political regime. According to Tatsuzou Tomizawa, they are characterized by five major points: newsworthy content; commercial availability; printed soon after the event; illegally published without government authorization; published anonymously. The arrival of Perry's ships was such a major event that it generated its own type of kwaraban, "kurofune [black ships] kwaraban." This present image is an example of a kurofune kwaraban.

Detailed Condition:

Backed on archival paper.