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[Hangchow] Xuntien alias Quinzay

Stock#: 65290
Map Maker: Merian
Date: 1638
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10 x 7 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce early and unusual plan of the Chinese city of Quinzay [Hangchow], based upon the magnificent account given by Venetian Marco Polo in the late 12th Century of the great city of Quinzay.

Quinzay is derived from the Chinese name King-size meaning "Capital" or great city. The actual name for Quinzay in this period was Lin-ngan, now Hangchow on China's East coast which was in the 12th Century the capital of the ruling Sung Dynasty. Marco Polo recounted perhaps with his typical tendency for over-exaggeration its 12000 bridges, its massive network of canals, its paved roads and its large Lake [Si-hu or Western Lake] some 30 miles in diameter with island pavilions and palaces upon it. Jansson reproduces this information with fanciful embellishment.

Detailed Condition: