



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Asia with the Islands adjoining described, the attire of the people, & Townes of importance, all of them newly augmented . . . 1626

Stock#: 68351
Map Maker: Speed
Date: 1676
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20.5 x 16 inches
Price: \$2,700.00



Description:

John Speed's Map of Asia

This is a fantastic map of Asia, bearing all the aesthetic strengths for which Speed's maps are prized. Asia is shown in full, with many interesting and mysterious geographical features. Eight important Asian cities line the top of this map, including Candy [Kandy], Goa [the historical, and somewhat mythological, city], Damascus, Jerusalem, Ormus [Hormuz], Bantam, Aden, and Macao. Along the sides of the map, the cultural dresses of ten civilizations can be found.

Many geographical curiosities can be found throughout this map. The Great Wall of China is prominently marked, far to the north of its true location. A lake in Tibet feeds many Bengali rivers, in an area labeled as "India without Ganges." At the source of this latter river, an elephant wanders. Korea is shown as a slender oddly projected peninsula, separated from China by a "Gulfe of Nanquin." Separating Siberia from North America is "The West Ocean," which gives way to "The Tartarian Sea" in the north.

The dresses and characteristics of the different ethnicities shown around the map are rather European. While the depictions of an Arabian, an Assyrian, and an Armenian are perhaps roughly accurate, it is clear that Speed either used inaccurate sources or just guessed for some of the others. The "Chinean" looks like an English Puritan. The Javan and the Sumatran are dressed very differently. The Tartarian resembles a Norse Viking. Further details, such as weapons that are visible, are just as inaccurate.

The text on the verso presents a fascinating anglocentric view of Asia in the early 17th century. In all, this



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is a great map of Asia, well designed but perhaps lacking some geographic and cultural accuracy.

Detailed Condition:

Paper expertly repaired along bottom of centerfold.