



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

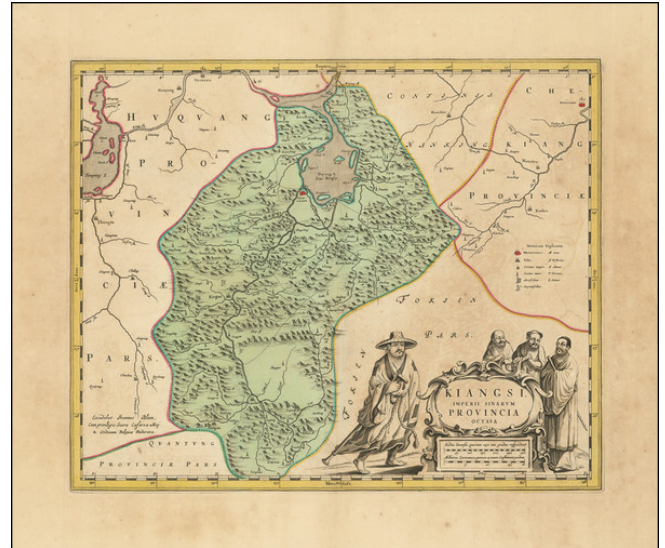
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Jiangxi) Kiangsi imperii sinarum Provincia Octava

Stock#: 75122
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1655 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice original hand-colored example of Blaeu's map of Jiangxi province, China.

Produced by Blaeu for his atlas of China, the first such atlas produced in the western world, the map shows the province in fine detail. Nanchang is named at the southern end of the huge inland Poyang Lake. The Yangtze River runs along the north of the map. Detail extends into the neighboring provinces of Hunan, Hubei, and Fujian, among others.

The Blaeu China atlas was an extremely important early work on the region and was based on the surveying and compiling work of Father Martinus Martini, the Jesuit Superior of Hangzhou.

Martino Martini

Martino Martini (瑪里諾) (1614-1661), was born in Trento, in the Bishopric of Trent. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1631, after finishing his schooling. He had a strong interest in astronomy and math, and he was able to study under Athanasius Kircher. Martini continued his theological studies in Portugal, on his way to Rome, and was ordained in 1639.

He left Portugal for China in 1640, and arrived in Macau in 1642. He settled on the mainland in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, which he used as a base in his traveling around the country.

Martini had arrived in China at the very end of the Ming dynasty; in 1644, the last legitimate Ming



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Emperor, the Chongzhen Emperor, hanged himself. The Qing Dynasty then rose, and when Manchu forces came to the town where Martini was staying, he was asked to pledge his loyalty to the new dynasty. He agreed, and his head was shaved in the Manchu manner, and he adopted Manchu-style Chinese dress.

In 1651, Martini left China, taking an adventurous peregrination to Amsterdam by way of the Philippines and Bergen, Norway. He arrived in Amsterdam in 1653 and took his collection of manuscript surveys to Johannes Blaeu for publication.

The collection of maps that Martini imparted to Bleau is worthy of close examination. He carried with him a copy of the Ming dynasty manuscript atlas by Zhu Siben (compiled 1311/12), with revisions from the printed atlas by Luo Hongxian -- his "Guangyu tu" (enlarged terrestrial atlas, 1579). Martini was a capable cartographer and compiled the maps himself. In fact, he convinced Bleau to postpone the publication of other volumes in the Atlas Maior to work on the Chinese atlas.

Martini's goal was to return to Rome, and he took his time to make many stops along the way. He visited printers in Antwerp, Vienna, and Munich, relaying his discoveries about China, which were in turn published in books that made him famous. On this trip, he also met his 10-year old cousin, Eusebio Kino, who would go on to conclusively prove the falsity of the California as an Island myth.

Martini reached Rome in 1655 and left for China again in 1657. He died in Hangzhou in 1661.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Nice large margins. Minor toning and offsetting.