



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Carte du Royaume de Kau-Li ou Coree Copiee sur la Carte Angloise

Stock#: 75951
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1757
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 7 x 8 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A fine map early map featuring a broadly accurate depiction of Korea, by the French Royal Hydrographer Jacques-Nicolas Bellin.

This attractive map features an early broadly accurate depiction of Korea, based on sources sent to France via China. Unlike earlier representations that showed Korea to be an island or a severely misshaped part of mainland Asia, Bellin's map presents Korea as a peninsula in a form roughly familiar to the modern eye. Numerous cities and rivers are labeled and the various provinces are elegantly distinguished by color.

As the ruling Joseon Dynasty had strictly forbidden Westerners from visiting Korea, the peninsula remained an almost complete enigma to Europeans until well into the 18th Century. However, around 1710, China's Kangxi Emperor dispatched agents to Seoul who returned with detailed maps and geographical descriptions of Korea. This intelligence was given to the Jesuit Jean-Baptiste de Regis who created a series of manuscript maps which featured a broadly accurate depictions of Korea. These maps were published in China as part of the *Kangxi Atlas* (1718-19).



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The leading French cartographer Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon D'Anville (1697-1782) acquired copies of the Kangxi maps, including the maps of Korea and devised his own interpretations, first printed in Jean-Baptiste Du Halde's *Description Geographique ... de la Chine* (Paris, 1735).

Jacques-Nicolas Bellin (1703-1772), the Royal Hydrographer to Louis XV, claimed on the present map to have derived his sources from "an English map" so as to avoid a copyright dispute, when in reality he used the work of his rival D'Anville as his model.

The present edition was published as part of Antoine-Francois Prevost's *Historie General des voyages* (Paris, 1757).

Detailed Condition: