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Ballon de' Nobili di Siam | Balon del Re di Siam

Stock#: 77378
Map Maker: Coronelli
Date: 1689
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10.5 x 15.5 inches
Price: \$ 375.00



Description:

Great decorative copperplate engraving showing three ships at sea, originally published in Coronelli's *Atlante Veneto*. The ships shown are fascinating renditions of what Europeans at the time imagined ships from the Far East to look like.

The upper image shows a nobleman's bark from Siam, while the lower image shows the bark of the King of Siam (modern-day Thailand). While the upper image is ornate, the lower ship is extremely well furnished, with many oarsmen and a ruddermen sitting high above the waves.

Interestingly, we can tell something about how the present image was printed by closely examining the edges of the ship's images, and how they interact with the intricate decorative borders that surround them. The boats and border were printed from separate copper plates but on the same sheet. This practice



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was not unheard of but is rather unusual.

Coronelli's *Atlante Veneto* was intended to accompany Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* and contained abundant maps. However, due to the idiosyncratic nature of the publication of the book, images of Coronelli's ships are rarer today than his maps are.

Detailed Condition: