



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

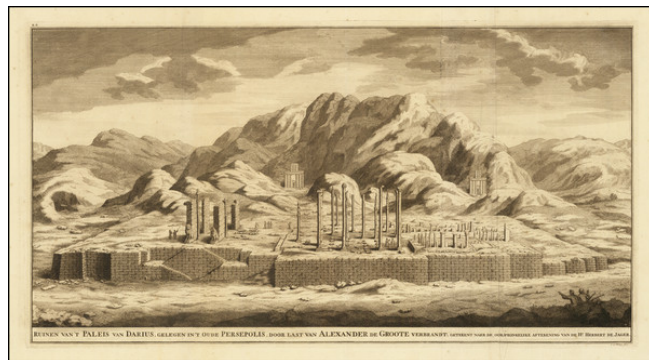
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(Ruins of Persepolis) Ruinen van't Paleis van Darius, gelegen in't Oude Persepolis

Stock#: 77420
Map Maker: Valentijn
Date: 1724
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.75 x 11.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Antique copperplate engraving showing the ruins of Persepolis, which originally appeared in Francois Valentijn's important *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*.

The view shows the majestic ancient city of Persepolis, with a backdrop of Persian mountains. Persepolis was the seasonally-occupied capital of the Achaemenid Empire between the 6th and 4th centuries, BCE. As mentioned on the map, the city was conquered and partially destroyed by Alexander the Great.

Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien

After spending sixteen years in the East Indies over the course of several voyages, Valentijn returned to his native Dordrecht. There, he finished his history of the East Indies, *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. The book was divided in five parts spread over eight volumes. It had over a thousand illustrations, including some of the most accurate maps of the region published to that date.

For the text, Valentijn borrowed heavily from contemporary works. To create such detailed maps and descriptions, Valentijn most likely also had access to the VOC's archives. These archives were closely watched and very few scholars or officials gained entry, particularly if they were likely to publish the contents of the repository. Indeed, Valentijn was lucky to see his work published at all.

Today, Valentijn's work is regarded as a veritable encyclopedia on maritime Asia. It is considered a useful collection of sources, from the eighteenth century and earlier, drawn from the VOC and personal papers. Some of his maps, particularly those of Australia, are drawn from manuscript sources now lost, making his history the lone surviving record of endangered knowledge.

Detailed Condition: