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[Saxon England] Heptarchie Des Saxons

Stock#: 102967
Map Maker: Mallet
Date: 1683
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 4.5 x 6.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Interesting map of the Saxon Heptarchy, published by Mallet in his monumental *Description de L'Univers*, first published in Paris in 1683.

The term "Saxon Heptarchy" refers to a period in early English history, roughly spanning the 5th to the 9th centuries, during which seven kingdoms - Wessex, Essex, Sussex, Kent, East Anglia, Mercia, and Northumbria - emerged in what is now England following the retreat of Roman authority. These kingdoms, predominantly settled and ruled by Anglo-Saxon tribes, were characterized by their distinct cultures, legal



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systems, and dialects. The concept of the Heptarchy is more a historiographical construct than a precise reflection of the era's political landscape, as the power dynamics, territorial boundaries, and number of significant polities were in constant flux. However, this framework provides a useful means for understanding the early stages of English medieval history, marked by a tapestry of warfare, diplomacy, and cultural exchange.

Historically, the significance of the Saxon Heptarchy extends beyond mere inter-kingdom conflicts and alliances. This era laid the foundational ethnic, cultural, and linguistic bedrock of early medieval England. It was during this time that the initial spread of Christianity took place, significantly influencing the social and political structures of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The period is crucial for understanding the subsequent unification processes that would eventually lead to the formation of a single English kingdom under the Wessex dynasty.

Detailed Condition: