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La Chine Royaume . . . 1656

Stock#: 44527
Map Maker: Sanson
Date: 1656
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Important Early Map of China, Based Upon Jesuit Sources.

Sanson's scarce map of China and Korea. This is one of the earliest maps to incorporate the geographical information brought back to Europe by the Jesuit Missionary Martino Martini, who is widely regarded as the father of Chinese geographical science. The map first appeared in the 1658 edition of Sanson's *Cartes Geenerales de Toutes les Parties du Monde*.

Martini was the first to study the history and geography of China with rigorous scientific objectivity. The extend of his knowledge of the Chinese culture, the accuracy of his investigations, the depth of his understanding of things Chinese are examples for the modern sinologists. Ferdinand von Richthofen calls Martini "the leading geographer of the Chinese mission, one who was unexcelled and hardly equalled, during the XVIII century...There was no other missionary, either before or after, who made such diligent use of his time in acquiring information about the country".

Sansonson also credits the 16th-century Jesuit missionaries Matteo Ricci and Michele Ruggieri in the text section of the cartouche.

The map extends to include the northern tip of the Philippines and a curiously curved Korean peninsula. Korea was usually shown as an island until the middle of the 17th century, so Sanson's depiction is a significant cartographic improvement. The Great Wall forms the northern boundary of China and the map is filled with rivers, mountains and villages.



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A detailed explanation panel in the bottom right is surmounted by PHEME, the personification of fame and renown.

Detailed Condition: