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Asia By H. Moll Geographer

Stock#: 100312
Map Maker: Moll
Date: 1729
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10.5 x 8 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Names the Sea of Korea

Herman Moll's 1729 map, "Asia," stands as a compelling artifact from the early 18th century, offering a detailed, albeit Eurocentric, perspective of the vast Asian continent as understood by one of London's leading mapmakers of the time.

The map's depiction of geographic regions and boundaries reflects the Western knowledge of the day, a time when cartography was an evolving science, and global exploration was uncovering new lands and cultures. The map delineates Tibet as a region separate from China, suggesting Moll's understanding of the unique cultural and political landscape of these areas.

One notable feature of Moll's map is the depiction of "Iesso Land," a term often used in old maps to refer to the islands north of Japan, represented here as connected to the Asian mainland. This portrayal reveals the incomplete and sometimes inaccurate knowledge of East Asia's geography that characterized European maps of the period. Similarly, the "Sea of Corea" (the Sea of Japan) is identified by its less common name, reflecting the fluid nature of toponyms in a time of increasing global contact.

In the southern region of the map, the partial representation of "New Holland" and "Carpentaria" — early names for parts of Australia — further emphasizes the expanding horizons of the 18th-century European world. These areas, still largely unknown and unexplored by Europeans, are seen only in fragments, hinting at the vast stretches of land and sea that remained to be charted.



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Moll's 1729 map of Asia is more than just a geographic illustration; it is a reflection of the historical context in which it was created. The map offers a window into the evolving European understanding of the world during a period of significant global exploration and discovery.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color in outline.