Statua Regum Europaeorum P.C.M. Nomina Continens.

Stock#:   101464
Map Maker: Lotter

Date: 1728 circa
Place: Augsburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18.5 x 22.5 inches

Price: $ 575.00

Description:

One of Matthaus Seutter's magnificent allegorical figures of the 'colossal kings' from his *Atlas Novus*.

This fascinating print eloquently captures the ethic of the absolute monarchy that prevailed accross Europe well into the 18th-century. The scene is dominated by the strong figure of a king, adorned with his crown and scepter. Written throughout the king's person are the names of the various kingdoms of Europe, which correspond to the coasts of arms that adorn the surroundings.

Allegorically, the scene is meant to show that all of the power, and indeed the political identity, of almost all European states was vested in one man - the Absolute Monarch. While Seuttter's depiction is original in style, it follows a long line of anthropomorphic portrayals of power as invested in the body of the king. Perhaps the earliest such representation is Sebastain Munster's 'Lary Europa' (1540) (or Europe embodied by a Queen, representing the Spanish Empire). Another evocative image can be found on the frontispiece of Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* (1651), which figuratively shows the powers of all a kingdom's subjects being subsumed to form the body of a great kingly power.

Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Statua Regum Europaeorum P.C.M. Nomina Continens.

Seutter published this work as one of four prints of 'colossal kings', which first appeared in his *Atlas Novus* (1728), with subsequent editions issued up to 1761.

Detailed Condition: