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The Financial News Prospect of the City of London Being a Map for the Merchants, Bankers, Brokers & other Ventures trading into that City 1934

Stock#: 40170
Map Maker: Whistler
Date: 1934
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 16.5 x 22.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of Rex Whistler's whimsical depiction of The City of London.

Rex Whistler (1905-1944) began his career as an artist while still in boarding school at Haileybury, beginning in 1919, where he began to show an unusual talent for art, providing set designs for play productions and giving away sketches to prefects in lieu of "dates" (a punishment at Haileybury, similar to "lines" whereby offenders are required to write out set lists of historical dates).

After Haileybury, the young Whistler was accepted at the Royal Academy, but disliked the regime there and was "sacked for incompetence". He then proceeded to study at the Slade School of Art where he met The Honourable Stephen Tennant, soon to become one of his best friends and a model for some of the figures in his works.

Upon leaving the Slade, he was an immediate sensation as a professional artist. His work encompassed all areas of art and design. From the West End theatre to book illustration (including works by Evelyn Waugh and Walter de la Mare, and perhaps most notably, for Gulliver's Travels), and mural and trompe l'oeil painting. Paintings at Port Lympne, Plas Newydd and Dorneywood, amongst others, show his outstanding talent in this genre.

His most noted work during the early part of his career was for the Cafe at the Tate Gallery, completed in 1927, when he was only 22. He was commissioned to produce posters and illustrations for Shell Petroleum and the Radio Times. He also made designs for Wedgwood china based on drawings he made of



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the Devon village of Clovelly. Whistler's elegance and wit ensured his success as a portrait artist among the fashionable, and he painted many members of London society, including Edith Sitwell, Cecil Beaton, and the other members of the set which he belonged to, and which became known as the "Bright Young Things".

When war broke out, though he was 35, he was eager to join the army. He was commissioned into the Welsh Guards. His artistic talent, far from being a stumbling block to his military career, was greatly appreciated and he was able to find time to continue some of his work, including a notable self portrait in uniform now in the National Army Museum. In 1944 he was sent to France following the D-Day Landings, where in July, 1944, he was the first fatality suffered by his Battalion in the Normandy Campaign.

Detailed Condition: