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The Caspian Sea Drawn by the Czar's Special Command By Carl van Verden in the Year 1719, 1720 and 1721 . . .

Stock#: 46257
Map Maker: Moll
Date: 1728
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 8 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Herman Moll's map provides a detailed portrayal of the Caspian Sea region. This map is based on the groundwork of Carl van Verden, a Dutch seaman in the employ of the Russian Navy, who created one of the most precise maps of the Caspian Sea at the time.

The map by Moll features a range of valuable geographic information, including several cities' inset views. Among these are the "City of Astrakhan" shown across the bottom of the map, the "City of Terky" depicted in the upper left corner, and the "City of Derbent" presented above the title cartouche.

Astrakhan, located at the northernmost part of the Caspian Sea, was a significant city in the Volga Delta due to its strategic position for trade routes and fisheries. Terki, now known as Makhachkala, is the capital of the Republic of Dagestan, Russia. In the early 18th century, it was a fortress and a critical location for controlling the trade route from the Caucasus to the Caspian Sea. Derbent, one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, lies in the Republic of Dagestan and served as a vital checkpoint along the north-south



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passage between the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus Mountains.

The map also includes the naming of various coastal towns along the western coast of the Caspian Sea. This attention to detail reflects the meticulousness of van Verden's original survey, which provided an in-depth perspective of the Caspian Sea's geographic complexity.

Van Verden's work on mapping the Caspian Sea was significant because it directly preceded and likely influenced Peter the Great's 1722 invasion of Baku and Derbent and consequently established Russian hegemony in the region. Despite the importance of his work, Van Verden was later overlooked by the Czar, favoring Vitus Behring for the commission to discover a Northeast Passage through the Russian Arctic.

Detailed Condition: