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Ta. Superioris Indiae et Tartariae Maioris (Modern Map of China, Japan, etc. -- Title on Verso)

Stock#: 46877
Map Maker: Fries
Date: 1522 (1535)
Place: Lyon
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18 x 11.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Finely colored example of Lorenz Fries map of China, Japan and adjoining regions, the first printed map to focus on China.

Fries map of eastern Asia is the first European map to focus on the region of Japan and China alone. This map derives from medieval sources, most notably Marco Polo, and extends from Tartary in the north, to "Prov. Bocat" (Cambodia) in the south. "Tebet" is shown prominently, as is "Zinpangri" (Japan), oriented north-south, along the right hand border. The map was produced for Fries's edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia* of 1522 and reissued in subsequent editions of 1525, 1535 & 1541.

The map is the first to illustrate Marco Polo's writings in cartographic form on a separate map dedicated exclusively to the Far East region. While there is no mention of the name China, many of the names used by Marco Polo are shown on the map. The Port of *Quinzay* [Hangzhou] is identified on the Eastern coast and *Zinpangri* [Japan] appears prominently across the sea from China. Curiously no mention is given to Polo's *Zaiton*. The great Tartar Khan sits in a tented encampment in the upper right of the image. Polo's division between *Cathay* in the Northern regions of China and *Mangi* or *Manzi* in the South is clearly illustrated.

Presented on a trapezoidal projection in Ptolemaic format, the map extends well beyond the geography described by Ptolemy and draws from the reports of Marco Polo and contemporary European and Portuguese sources. Several regions in China are noted with numerous rivers and a huge lake labeled *Sinis Magnus*. In the Pacific, Fries includes a finely excited vignette of the Great Khan seated in his tent, before a great cluster of tents of his Tartar hordes. On the reverse are two pages of Latin historical text,



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the first flanked by woodcuts, while the second page ends with a diagram of astronomical instruments.

Unlike most maps in Frie's atlas, this map is not based upon an earlier map by Waldseemuller and is an entirely original production.

Detailed Condition: