



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

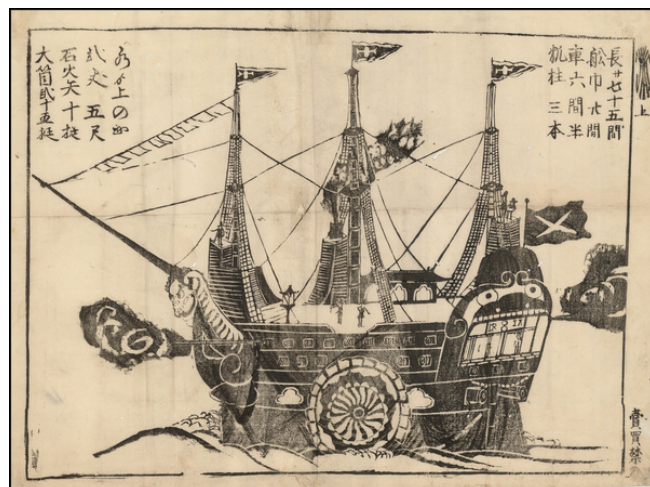
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[Commodore Perry's Arrival in Edo Bay]

Stock#: 55569
Map Maker: Anonymous Kwaraban
Date: 1853 circa
Place: Japan
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 15 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Japanese Newspaper Broadside Showing the Arrival of Commodore Perry's Ships

Woodcut-printed Kwaraban showing American black ships at sea. The image shows a steamship with a dragon-faced bowsprit firing a cannon shot into the ocean. The ship is imposingly depicted, with high masts, a hellish steam wheel, and numerous canons.

This Kwaraban appears to tell of the ships firing ten shots, which likely recounts the American vessel's warning shots fired. While supposedly in celebration of Independence Day, the firing of these shots was intended to force the Japanese government into opening the empire to American trade. The arrival of Perry into Japan was a turning point for the nation's history, as it forced the country to abandon its traditional isolationist policies and open to western trade. Perry's men, and the black ships they sailed, were a center of attention for late Edo Period Japan.

Kwarabans (literally, "roof tile prints") are broadside newspaper prints that were distributed across Japan and told of major events, such as natural disasters and changes of political regime. According to Tatsuzou Tomizawa, they are characterized by five major points: newsworthy content; commercial availability; printed soon after the event; illegally published without government authorization; published anonymously. The arrival of Perry's ships was such a major event that it generated its own type of kwaraban, "kurofune [black ships] kwaraban." This present image is an example of a kurofune kwaraban.

Detailed Condition:

Drawer Ref:

Stock#: 55569



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Minor fold toning. Uneven marginal cut.