



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Naaukeurige Kaart Van Tartaryen, Soo als dat door W De Rubruquis doorreyst is. In 't Jar 1253

Stock#: 56393

Map Maker: van der Aa

Date: 1706 circa

Place: Leyden

Color: Hand Colored

Condition: VG+

Size: 9 x 6.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Fascinating map of a significant portion of Asia, prepared to illustrate the Dutch Translation of the Journal of William of Rubruck.

William of Rubruck (1220-1293) was a Flemish Franciscan missionary and explorer. The report of William of Rubruck is one of the great masterpieces of medieval geographical literature comparable to that of Marco Polo, although they are very different. William was a good observer, and an excellent writer. He asked many questions along the way and did not take folk tale and fable as truth.

Because he wrote in Latin his report was not as widely read or known as Marco Polo who wrote in the vernacular. William accompanied Louis IX on the Seventh Crusade in 1248. In May, 1253, he set out from Constantinople on a missionary journey to convert the Tartars. With William's party were Bartolomeo da Cremona, an intendant called Gosset and an interpreter named Homo Dei (Abdullah). William of Rubruck's was the fourth European mission to the Mongols. Before him went Giovanni da Pian del Carpine in 1245, Ascelin in 1247 and André de Longjumeau in 1248. The King was encouraged to send another mission by reports of the presence of Nestorian Christians at the Mongolian court. William crossed the Black Sea, traversed the Crimea and then continued eastward; nine days after crossing the Don, he met Sartach Khan, ruler of the Kipchak Khanate. The Khan sent William on to his father, Batu Khan, at Sarai near the Volga. Batu refused conversion and sent the ambassadors on to the great Mongol Mangu Khan. They reached Karakorum at Easter, 1254.

After residing there for some time, they returned home, without having achieved their goal, reaching Cyprus in the spring of 1255. On his return, William presented to the king a very clear and precise report,



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entitled *Itinerarium fratris Willielmi de Rubruquis de ordine fratrum Minorum, Galli, Anno gratia 1253 ad partes Orientales*. In this report, he described the peculiarities of China as well as many geographical observations, making it the first scientific description of central Asia. Besides many anthropological observations, William also answered a long-standing question proving that the Caspian was an inland sea and did not flow into the Arctic Ocean; although earlier Scandinavian explorers had doubtless already known this, he was the first to report it.

Detailed Condition: