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Tartariae Imperium

Stock#: 59526
Map Maker: Magini
Date: 1596
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 7 x 5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine Sixteenth-Century Map of Tartary and the Strait of Anian

Striking example of Magini's map of the Tartar Empire, from an early edition of Magini's *Geographiae Universae tum Veteris tum Novae Absolutissimum*.

The map features northeastern Asia and northwestern North America, with Japan sandwiched between them. The map offers a detailed, if still largely fanciful, treatment of the west coast of North America, stretching from what is today Alaska to the tip of Baja California. They are separated by the Strait of Anian. Ania itself is included as a province on mainland China.



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The Tartar Empire extends from Europe to Asia, with the Caspian Sea evident. A bearded Tartar sits in a tent in the far north, while tall mountains are included in several places, and there is a lone yurt next to a hill.

There are several annotations included across the map. In the far north, near Argon, Christians are said to dwell. Other notes cite ancient and Medieval thinkers whose ideas influenced the geography of this map.

The map is supposed to show the extent and location of the Tartar Empire (also Tatar). Europeans referred to practically anyone from Central Asia as Tartars. An early confederation of Tartars was incorporated into the Mongol Empire under Genghis Khan. These largely nomadic groups interested Europeans for their supposed ruggedness, but in reality Magini and his contemporaries knew little accurate information about the Tartars.

Detailed Condition: