



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

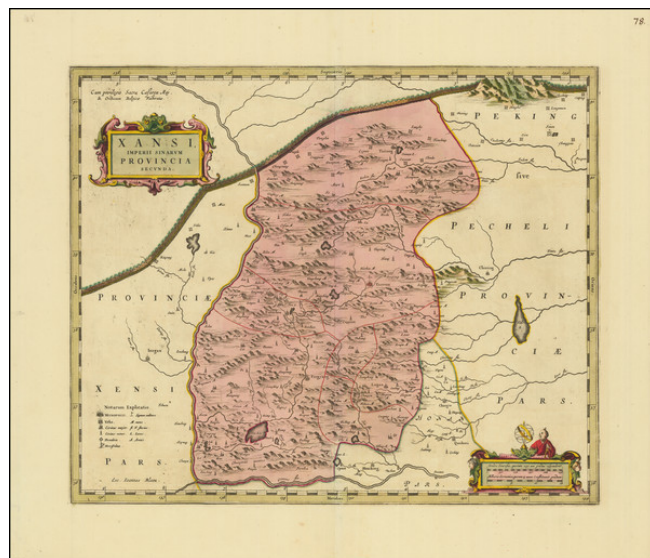
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(Shanxi) Xansi, Imperii Sinarum provincia secvnda

Stock#: 75580
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1655 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First European Printed Map of the Shanxi Province

Fine example of Blaeu's map of the Shanxi province of China, published by Johannes Blaeu for his atlas of China, the first such atlas published in the western world.

The map is beautifully engraved in the Dutch 17th-century style by one of the greatest map engravers of the time. The map shows the course of the Great Wall bounding the province to the north. The city of Taiyun ("Taiyuen") is shown. Many other cities, towns, forts, and geographical features are also shown.

Neighboring provinces, including those Hubei, Shaanxi, and Henan. Shanxi's name mean "west of the mountains," some of which are shown on the map.

The map appeared in Martino Martini's *Novus Atlas Sinensis*, published by Joannes Blaeu, the first western atlas of China, which included sixteen engraved maps of Chinese regions, and one general map of Japan.

The Atlas appeared both as a separate publication and as a part of Blaeu's *Novus Atlas* and later his *Atlas Maior* and is based on the surveying and compiling work of Father Martinus Martini, the Jesuit Superior of Hangzhou.

The seventeen maps are noteworthy not only for their accuracy, remarkable for the time, but



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also for their highly decorative cartouches featuring vignettes depicting regional Chinese dress, activities, and animals. In addition, it is one of the first true Sino-European publications, based on Chinese land surveys but presenting geographic data in a highly visual European cartographic format. - Reed & Demattè

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Early ink manuscript "78".