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Franklin Before the Lords in Council 1774. This Engraving from the Original Painting is respectfully dedicated to the People of the United States by the Publisher

Stock#: 85991
Map Maker: Schussele
Date: 1859
Place: New York
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 25 x 20 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

Rare engraved image of Benjamin Franklin appearing before the Privy Council in London, in 1774.

The image shows Benjamin Franklin's appearance before the Privy Council at the Cockpit in Whitehall on January 29, 1774.

In June of 1773, the House of Representatives in Massachusetts petitioned the crown for the removal from office of Governor Hutchinson. Benjamin Franklin, as their agent, presented the demand in London. This was in response to letters written by Hutchinson, intercepted by Franklin and sent to Boston, in which Hutchinson stated that England must do something to prevent the state from separating from Britain.

At the time, Franklin was also the British deputy postmaster general in North America and a spokesman for the Massachusetts House of Representatives. His appearance came on the heels of word of the Boston Tea Party in London and a strong anti-American Sentiment. Every member of the Privy Council attended along with Lord North and General Gage, along with many spectators. Franklin's presentation was made by two lawyers who strongly urged the removal of Hutchinson. The proposal was rejected and Franklin was derided and stripped of his position as deputy postmaster general. Franklin remained in London for another fourteen months to advocate peacefully on behalf of the colonies.

The image was engraved by Robert Whitechurch, from an original painting by Alsace born artist, Christian Schuessele, and published by Thomas Kelly in New York and copyrighted by John M. Butler.



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Detailed Condition: