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A Map of ye Province of Kilan as it lies on ye Caspian Sea.

Stock#: 96744
Map Maker: Olearius
Date: 1662
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 12.4 x 10.6 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Interesting early map of the Province of Gilan (here called Kilan), which illustrated Adam Olearius's monumental work, "The Voyages & Travels of the Ambassadors from the Duke of Holstein, to the Great Duke of Muscovy, and the King of Persia...."

The map meticulously charts the region of Gilan, revealing its positioning by the Caspian Sea. The inclusion of geographical features, settlements, and possibly trade routes hints at the vast knowledge Olearius and his team gathered during their travels. For contemporaneous European readers, such a map was a portal to an exotic world, illuminating parts of the globe they might have only heard tales of.

Gilan is a coastal province in the northern region of modern-day Iran, nestled between the Caspian Sea to the north and the Alborz mountain range to the south. This province boasts a rich history and cultural heritage, and its significance has been felt throughout various periods of Persian history. Gilan has been inhabited for thousands of years, with ancient artifacts indicating that prehistoric peoples settled in the region. Over the centuries, it was influenced by various empires, from the Medes and Achaemenids to the Seljuks and Safavids. By the time Adam Olearius visited in the 17th century, Gilan had become an integral part of the Safavid Empire. Its geographical location made it a strategic area for commerce and defense against northern invaders.

Olearius's journey was driven by a vision: establishing the newly-founded city of Friedrichstadt as a terminus for an overland silk route. Though his mission to seal treaties in Moscow and Persia was fraught



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with challenges, it resulted in a broader understanding of both empires' geographical landscapes. Olearius's extensive travels in Russia and Persia make his accounts invaluable, bridging European perspectives with observations of distant lands.

The intricate journey took Olearius from Gottorp to Moscow, followed by an arduous voyage down the Volga River, spanning the vast Caspian Sea, before finally reaching the Persian court at Isfahan. Throughout this journey, Olearius was not just a diplomat but also a geographer, documenting terrains and creating charts like that of the Volga River. His cartographic endeavors played a significant role in the broader European understanding of these regions.

Upon his return, Olearius was entrusted with the responsibility of the Gottorp library, and his contributions enriched it with a treasure trove of manuscripts, books, and artifacts from the East. His acquisitions showcased the depths of his interests and the breadth of his travels.

Detailed Condition: