



An extremely rare miniature map of Tartary

FRESCHOT, Casimir Don.

(142) Tartaria Grande in Asia sotto diversi Principi é Gran Cham Mahametan et Gentile Longh: 70. Gior.e.

Venice: Giovanni Pare', c. 1680. Sheet 51 x 51mm.

£380

An extremely rare map of Tartary, one of 153 squares of a 'goose game', 'Geografia ridotta a giuoco per istruttione della giovane nobiltà veneziana', of which there is one known complete example, in the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice. The game was designed by Don Casimir Freschot, a Benedictine Priest and author of about 50 books on history and Venice, to facilitate 'the teaching of geography to the young Venetian nobility'. Engraved by Anton Francesco Lucini, this was probably the earliest geographical game to be published. The 'board' comprised 153 squares containing small maps, arranged in a spiral, with a plan of Venice at the centre. Above the game were four larger maps of the continents, the rules, including the prizes and forfeits for landing on squares, and a dedication.

'Charta Geographica' magazine, vol.1, page 76; plus insert with facsimile broadsheet.

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