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A PICTORIAL MAP OF BEIJING IN THE 1930S

£3,000.00

A Map and History of Peiping; formerly known as Peking; capital of provinces, princedoms and kingdoms since 1121 B.C.; in 1264 A.D. the capital of the Mongol Empire of Kublai Khan; made the capital of the Ming Empire through the Ming and Ching Dynasties; and now a city which will live long in the memory of man as one of the greatest the world has ever known.

Cartographer	DORN, Frank.
Date	1936
Stock #:	24392
Publication:	Beijing: Peiyang Press, 1936. Colour-printed wood-engraving. Sheet 860 x 755mm.
Condition:	Backed on linen.

DESCRIPTION:

A fascinating decorative map of Beijing, drawn by an American officer who was a military attaché in China during the 1930s. It features vignettes of Chinese history from 1100 BC to 1927 as well as modern tourist attractions including golf and race courses. Hints to the political situation include the 'Kuomintang Headquarters'; and the German swastika and the Japanese 'Rising Sun' flags flying in the 'Legation Quarter', the year before the official start of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937.

Frank Dorn (1901-81) was a graduate of West Point (where he picked up the life-long nickname of 'Pinky'), before being posted to Beijing in 1934 to help gather intelligence on Japanese aggression. He immersed himself in the language and culture of the city, researching the Forbidden City and collecting antiquities. When war with Japan broke out Dorn became chief-of-staff to Lt General Joseph Stilwell, with a rank of Colonel. At one point relations between the Americans and the leader of the Chinese Kuomintang, Chiang Kai-shek, were so bad that Dorn was ordered to prepare a plan to assassinate him. Although Dorn suggested giving Chiang a faulty parachute and sabotaging his plane, authorisation was never given.

After his retirement as Brigadier General in 1953 Dorn wrote a number of books including 'The Sino-Japanese War, 1937-41', 1974.