



The English edition of Jansson's map of Russia

JANSSON, Jan.
 Novissima Russiae Tabula. Authore Isaaco Massa.

Oxford: Jan Jansson van Waesbergen, Moses Pitt & Stephan Swert, c.1680. Coloured. 470 x 550mm.

£1,000

A map of Russia after Isaac Massa (1586-1643), a Dutch grain trader who became an envoy to the Kremlin and collected maps of Russian territory at great personal risk. It was originally published by Jan Jansson in 1636 and reengraved the following year with a title and dedication to Benart. After his death the plates passed to his son-in-law, Jan Jansson van Waesbergen. He went into partnership with two English publishers, Pitt and Swart, to produce a twelve-volume 'English Atlas' to compete with Blaeu's. Between 1680 and 1683 four volumes of the atlas and the text for the fifth were printed in Oxford, but the mounting costs were too much. Production ceased and for a time Pitt was locked up in the Fleet Prison for debt, making this state of the map quite uncommon. The differences are van Waesbergen & Pitt's names as publishers and a grid engraved over the map.

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