



Woodblock printed map of Edo, north oriented to the right.

MAP OF EDO

[O-Edo ōezu]/Takai Ranzan zu.

Author

TAKAI, Ranzan

Publication date

1859.

Publisher

Go-shomotsushi Izumoji Manjirō: Okadaya Kashichi

Publication place

[Edo],

Physical description

Woodblock printed map of Edo, north oriented to the right.

Dimensions

1210 by 1340mm. (47.75 by 52.75 inches).

Notes

A large detailed cadastral map of Edo [Tokyo], showing landowners, main temples and shrines and other points of interest depicted pictorially in relief.

During the end of the Edo Period, Rangaku, or "Dutch Learning," dominated Japanese art and science. This map exemplifies the union of Japanese traditional printmaking and Dutch cartography.

The latter half of the Edo Period is known as the Bakumatsu Era, when traditional feudal authorities resisted the increasing western influence, creating a tense social division. It represents the historical, social and political characteristics of the Bakumatsu era. At the center of Edo, present-day Tokyo, marks the head of state and the Japanese legal authority. Within the central living quarters, there is a Western circle called nishinomaru. The royal living quarters are surrounded by a group of mansions, called the daimyo-koji, or “warlord ally.” The relationship between spatial orientation and hierarchy is very clear, as all of the surrounding structures face the center.

North is oriented to the right.

Insets: 江戸方角道法 Edo hōgaku dōhō (distance chart), 江戸年中行事 Edo nenju gyōji (list of daily events for Edo).

First printed Genroku 9 [1696], later revised Bunsei 5 [1822], reprinted Tenpō 14 [1843], and current edition Ansei 6 [1859].

Bibliography

Beans, A List of Japanese Maps of the Tokugawa Era I, 39.

Provenance

Price: £7500

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