

Double-page engraved map, with contemporary hand-colour in outline.

WITH AN INSET OF THE “ICE SEA”

A New Map of Asia From the latest Observations. Most Humbly Inscrib’d to the Right Hon.ble George Earl of Warrington.

Author
SENEX, John

Publication date
[1721].

Publisher
Revis’d by I. Senex,

Publication place
[London],

Physical description
Double-page engraved map, with contemporary hand-colour in outline.

Dimensions
490 by 565mm (19.25 by 22.25 inches).

Notes
A map of all of Asia, including eastern Europe, the Middle East, China, India, Southeast Asia, the East Indies, and the northern coastline of Australia. A small inset lower left of “ye supposed N. Coast of Asia” is given in the lower left “to avoid too great a contraction of the scale”, and features “The Ice Sea”, and “Unknown Parts”.

The mapmaker
John Senex (1678-1749) was apprenticed to the London bookseller Robert Clavell in 1695, branching out on his own in 1702. Between 1703 and 1706 Senex formed an early partnership to produce instruments with Jeremiah Seller and Charles Price, the successors of John Seller. Senex continued in partnership with Price until 1710, and then joined forces with John Maxwell, by which time he had gained a reputation as a successful publisher of atlases, maps and geographical texts.

When Price left to work with rival George Willdey, Senex soon became the more successful of the two companies, with Price ending his career and his life in a Fleet Street prison. In 1728 Senex was appointed Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1738 he presented a paper to the Society with suggestions for making a celestial globe into a procession globe. His globes were held in such high regard that one appears in a portrait by Richard Wilson of George III and his brother Frederick with their tutor: “if we can judge from survival rates and geographical spread, he was the greatest globe-maker of his day” (Worms).

Following his death, Senex’s publishing interests were continued by his widow, Mary. In 1755 most of his stock was acquired at auction by the Scottish astronomer James Ferguson. Only one set of plates escaped, the Senex-Price celestial pocket globe and those for a newly engraved matching terrestrial sphere, which went to the instrument maker George Adams.

Bibliography
NLA Bib ID: 1785952.

Provenance
Provenance: Freycinet family archives

Price:

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