



carte nouvelle de tout l'Empire de la Grande Russie dans l'estat ou il s'est trouve a la mort de Pierre le Grand. Dressee sur des observations toutes nouvelles et dedoe a l'immortelle memoire de ce Grand Monarque Avec Privilege" Amsterdam. 18 x 25.75 inches

This rare, separately issued map of the Russian Empire was printed by Renier and Josua Ottens c. 1730, but the map is based on the work of Philipp Johann von Strahlenberg: it is that map maker's first map of Russia and Siberia, stolen from him in 1715. Strahlenberg (1677 -1747) would rebound to produce his famous 1730 *Tattariae Magnae*, one of the largest, most ground breaking, and unique maps of Russia to appear in the first half of the 18th century (*see below*), but this beautiful engraving represents the first complete expression of Strahlenberg's efforts at his seminal mapping of Siberia and the Russian Arctic. The map is significant in its support of the viability of a Northeast Passage, and pre-figures Vitus Bering's (1681 - 1741) mapping of the Strait that would bear his name. As well the map, in this edition, presents those areas claimed by the Russian Empire c. 1725 at the death of Tsar Peter the Great. It records Russian territories from Moscow to Japan and Kamchatka, including parts or all of adjacent northern China, Mongolia, Persia, India, Tibet, Japan, Korea, and Turkestan - and is among the earliest maps to show Russian Alaska based on actual report.

The map, printed on the heels of the 1725 death of Peter the Great, presents the empire as the life's achievement of the famous, innovative, and too-young monarch. The map's magnificent cartouche presents Tsar Peter in a hagiographic light. A banner about him reads *hic nimis angustus tantae virtuti orbis*, [This world is too small for such virtue]. The Tsar sits amidst the clouds, flanked by a fur-bedecked Siberian with a club, and a spear-and-shield wielding Athena. Along the slopes below this lofty perch,

representatives of the many tributaries of Russia, in their traditional garb, gaze on adoringly while offering treasures of silk, spice, fur, and livestock.

These various peoples are not only represented in the cartouche, but are noted in detail in the map itself, including their tributary relationships. The main source of information for many of these notes is Abu al-Ghazi Bahadur's (1603 - 1663) *Genealogical History of the Turkmens*, a 17th century manuscript that Strahlenberg acquired and translated.

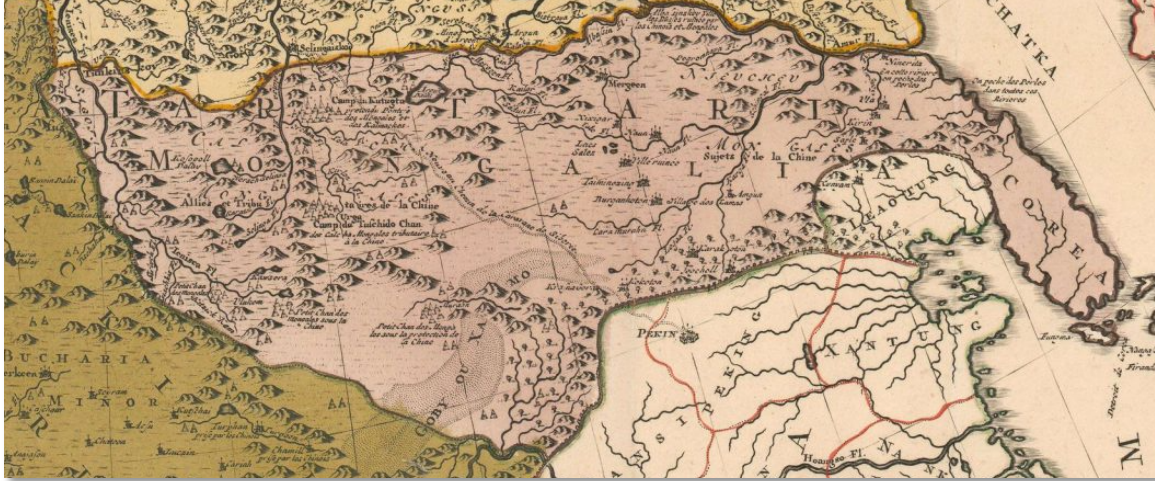


Cartouche that shows Tsar Peter

Tibet: Potala is noted as the residence of the Dalai Lama, who held sway over Tibet and Tangut; within its bounds are shown the camps of Zinghis Khan and Dalay Khan, who are described as tributaries of the Dalai Lama. The cities of *Turphan* and *Chamill*, it is noted, have been taken by the Chinese.

Mongolia: The area north of the Great Wall of China is well-detailed, showing trade routes between China and Siberia, and the domains of various Tatar Khans - some under Chinese protection. The camp of Khutuktu (*Kutugta* on the map) is noted in particular, situated near a lake in central Mongolia. This corresponds with the domain, in Dolon Nor, of the *Jebtsundamba Khutukhtu*: spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism in Mongolia. North of the Korean Peninsula, at the mouth of the Amur River and other rivers down the coast, the map notes that fish and pearls are to be found. (Korea itself is devoid of detail, barring a *Fungma* island.) Also on the upper Amur River is *Albazin*, the first

Russian settlement on the Amur. It is here described as having been destroyed by the Chinese and Mongols, as it had been around 1686.



The Chukchi Peninsula: The northeast extreme of the map differs sharply from the mapping that Strahlenberg would adopt 15 years later. While the peninsula is shown pictorially, its best detail is in its tribal population. Again, drawing from al-Ghazi's account, the map notes the domain of the *Tzookschi* (fierce and warlike foes of the Russians, who if captured kill themselves) and the *Tzchoiatski*, (allies of the *Tzookschi*, also fierce.) The peninsula ends in a *Cop Suetoinus* (probably 'Cape Swetoi Nos' or the 'Holy head') and an archipelago, through which it is said: "The Russians, coming from the Lena and other rivers east of the Lena pass by here with their buildings to negotiate with the Kamchatkans." This report appears to agree with those of the Cossack Semen Ivanovich Dezhnev (1605 - 1673), in 1648. Dezhnev, along with a total seven ships sailed from the mouth the Kolyma River, along the Siberian Arctic, to the Anadyr River north of Kamchatka, and in doing so became the first Europeans to sail through the Bering Strait some 80 years before Vitus Bering. Dezhnev described rounding a large mountainous promontory identified as *Chukchi*, *Tschuktschi*, or *Chukotka Peninsula*.

This map is among the first that represents *Puchochotski Island* - the crescent shaped island at the easternmost extreme of this map. This island is mapped on only a few obscure Russian manuscripts of the same period - probably Strahlenberg's sources - and Johann Baptiste Homann's (1664-1724) map of Kamchatka published in 1725, which itself is probably derived from a further map. Strahlenberg's own sources are probably related to the discoveries of Petr Popov, who was sent from Anadyrsk to the Chukchi Peninsula in 1711 to reconnoiter and negotiate with the Chukchi tribes. Popov returned with indigenous reports of a large island one day's voyage east of the Peninsula - without question representing Chukchi knowledge of the Behring Strait and Alaska - marking this as one of the earliest published maps to illustrate Alaska based upon experiential knowledge. Further, the map describes the inhabitants of the island as tributaries of Russia, paying in furs and beaver's oil.



The Chukchi Peninsula

This map originates with the Great Northern War (1700-1721). Strahlenberg, a Swedish officer, was taken by Russian forces following the Battle of Poltava in 1709. He was sent to Tobolsk, Siberia, along with other Swedish prisoners-of-war. As a noble prisoner, Strahlenberg initially dedicated himself to the study of languages, an activity well documented in his book *Dos Nord- und Ostliche Theil von Europa und Asia*, which includes tables on several Siberian languages including Mongolian. It was during his enforced tenure in Tobolsk that Strahlenberg acquired the manuscript of Abu al-Ghazi Bahadur's 1659 *Genealogy of the Turkmens* which he translated, probably to the French. Strahlenberg's map may have begun as a simple sketch intended to supplement his linguistic work, but in time developing the map grew to become his primary obsession.

Lacking training as a cartographic draftsman, Strahlenberg turned to fellow Swedish prisoner of war, Johan Anton Matern (1683-1767), who had mastered mapmaking in Poland, Samogitia, and Lithuania. Matern assisted Strahlenberg in taking astronomical readings as they traveled together around Siberia - apparently with no plans to escape the Russian captivity. In addition, Strahlenberg would ask military officers and travelers passing through Tobolsk to annotate his map with lands they had passed through. He also canvassed his fellow prisoners, many of whom were sent out on work details to various parts of Siberia, for reports on the lands through which they traveled. These notes, reinforced with descriptions from al-Ghazi, appear throughout the map.

By 1715, Strahlenberg had completed a map of Siberia, as well as his translations of al-Ghazi. A fire broke out in Tobolsk, and Strahlenberg hastily gathered his treasures into a trunk and threw them out the window to save them from the fire. No sooner had it hit the ground than the trunk was promptly stolen.

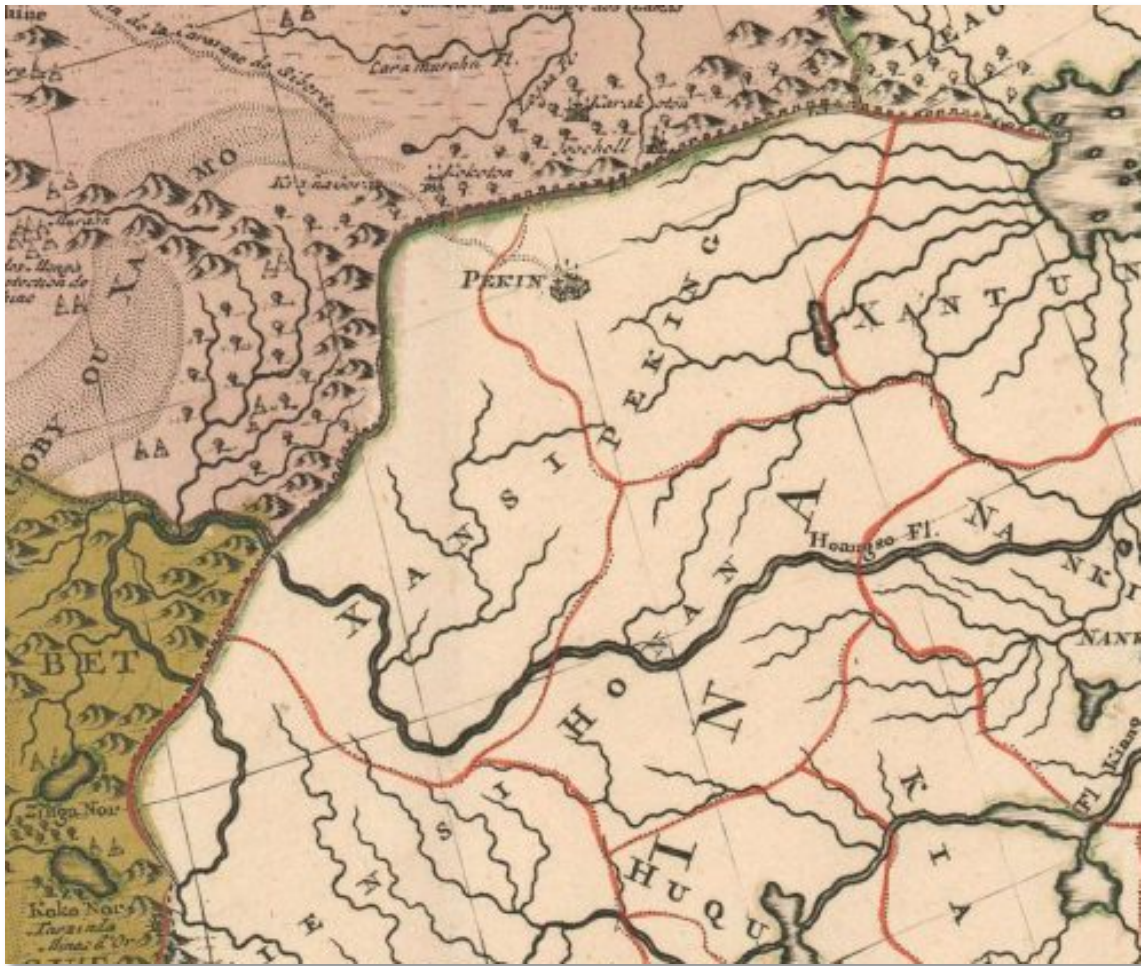
Strahlenberg heroically bent himself to create a new map, but in and around 1717 the Russian Prince Matvey Petrovich Gagarin, governor of Tobolsk, confiscated the map and mapmaking tools, and forbade Strahlenberg from making maps under pain of being sent even further north. (The Prince may possibly have been motivated in hiding his

hobby of raiding grave mounds for gold and silver.) Undaunted, Strahlenberg had preserved a spare copy of his notes and was able to recreate the map, which he forwarded to the Swedish ambassador in Moscow, Josias Cederhielm (1673 - 1729). This was transmitted, at least in part, to Homann who used it for his 1725 map of Kamchatka. This gives the sole glimpse of Strahlenberg's 1718 work, which would appear to have resembled Strahlenberg's 1730 work more than this earlier, lost piece, which Homann's 1725 work does not at all resemble.

The Great Northern War between Russia and Sweden ended in 1721, and news of the peace reached Siberia in 1722. Strahlenberg began his long voyage back to Sweden in May of that year, arriving in Stockholm in August of 1723. He began in earnest to find a publisher for his map, but was unable to fund the printing until 1730. In the meantime, Leiden publisher Kallewier in 1726 printed the first, French edition of Abu al-Ghazi Bahadur's *Histoire genealogique des des Tatars*. The *Histoire* contained two small-format maps: *Carte Nouvelle de l'Asie Septentrionale* and *Carte de l'Asie Septentrionale*. The relationship between both of these and the present map is unmistakable.

It is not at all clear precisely when the present map was engraved. It has been catalogued with wildly conflicting dates and its occasional inclusion in composite, made-to-order, atlases has led to its being attributed erroneously to various mapmakers including Jaillot, Mortier, Danckerts, or even Visscher. No date any earlier than 1625 for the engraving of this plate can be taken seriously, given the explicit reference to the death of Tsar Peter the Great in its title, but its nature as a separate issue deprives us of the information that usually comes down to us from formal atlases. Bagrow cites a 1727 reference to a map with this title, described as possessing the portrait of Peter the Great with its attendant motto: *hic nimis angustus tantae virtuti orbis*. This map can only have been engraved after Peter the Great's February 1725 death, but prior to 1727. The earliest possible year for the first state of this map is 1725. A further difficulty lies in the absence, on the first state of the map, of a printer's imprint. Despite the presence on the map of an Amsterdam publisher's privilege, the identity of the actual engraver is obscure. The execution of the map (particularly the engraver's treatment of mountains) and the future ownership of the copperplate lead scholars to attribute the work to Renier Ottens.

The present example is a second state of the map, the only change between the two being the presence of the imprint of Amsterdam map publishers Renier and Josua Ottens. Again, the Ottens family did not produce a regular atlas, and their maps were separate issues sometimes included in made-to-order atlases from as early as the 1720s on into the 1760s. Consensus tends to put this map at c. 1730.



The Great Wall of China



Nova Descriptio Geographica Tattariae Magnae tam orientalis, Philipp Strahlenberg, 1730

Strahlenberg's map of Russia is one of the most important maps of Russia published in the 18th century. This is a rare first edition of Strahlenberg's important map of Russia, particularly for Siberia and Central Asia. The map was engraved by Ferdinand Hilfreich Frisch in Berlin and published as a separately, as a companion to Strahlenberg's *Das Nord- und Ostliche Theil von Europa und Asia* . . . As noted by cartographic historian Leo Bagrow:

It is to be regretted that Strahlenberg's map has so far not been studied to any large extent. After Remezov, it is the second most important source of historical geographical information about Siberia. Yet it did not have a great influence on maps of the following period and, in a way, stands apart.

Strahlenberg, whose name was Tabbert before he was ennobled in 1707, was an officer and cartographer born in Stralsund. After the Swedish defeat in Poltava in 1709 Strahlenberg, a Swedish officer, was taken prisoner during Charles XII's campaign in Russia and held captive in Siberia for thirteen years. Imprisoned in Tobolsk from 1711 to 1721, he was able to explore the lower basins of the Ob and Yenisey rivers, gathering the geographical information regarding the northern and eastern parts of Europe and Asia recorded in this large map. This important map is based on his travels and extensive research in Russia. He returned to Sweden in 1722.

Strahlenberg's work is of great importance offering much first-hand information, geographical, historical and ethnographic, about Siberia and Great Tartary. His book also includes early descriptions of the linguistics of the region, with a Kalmyv vocabulary including the translations of Mongolian words. The most important aspect of

his work was unquestionably his rare and significant map representing the Russian realm and Great Tartary, containing extensive information regarding Siberia.

Strahlenberg utilized a wide array of sources in preparing his map. He used his own latitude calculations, as well as readings he had taken with Daniel Gottlieb Messerschmidt, a Prussian naturalist with whom he travelled in Russia. Measurements and other geographic information were obtained from other sources as well, including Swedish officers on different expeditions, Swedish and German travelers, and Russian cartographers and explorers.

The map encompasses the area between 50° and 185° east longitude and 32° and 75° north latitude. It records the Russian territories from west of Moscow to Japan in the east and includes northern China, Tibet, and Turkestan in the south. Neighboring countries such as Poland, Persia, India, and Mongolia are documented. Numerous important geographic features are also represented: the Arctic and Pacific oceans, and the Caspian Sea; the Urals, Caucasus, and the Himalayan mountains; and the Gobi desert and the man-made Great Wall of China. The map is most notable, however, for its accurate representation of Siberia, particularly the settlement patterns of the region's various populations.

The map was later re-engraved for English editions of 1730 and 1736 by R.W. Seale. The original Swedish edition is one of the most important and collectable maps of Russia published in the 18th century.



