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## Fortunino Matania R.I. (1881-1963)

The fate of the German Empire: learning the decision of the Allies.  
The six delegates listen to the conditions of the Peace Treaty at Versailles.

Pen, brush, ink, grey wash and gouache. Signed.

Inscribed verso: 'May, 1919, No 51'. Stamped: 'The Sphere No.1008'.

Illustrated: *The Sphere*, London, 17th May, 1919, pp.128-9.

13.25x20.25 inches.

£750.

'On May 7, shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon, in the white-and-gold room of the Trianon Palace Hotel at Versailles, the terms of the Peace Treaty were made known to the Germans. The six delegates are here seen listening intently to the reading of the terms by their interpreter. On the extreme left is Dr. Melchior next to him Herr Leinert (President of the Assembly), then comes Dr. Landsberg of the fiery red beard (Minister of Justice, representing proletariat classes of Germany) seated next to Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, the one distinguished figure of the group. On the Count's left is Herr Giesberts (Minister of Posts), and Professor Schucking (Professor of international Law) is on the extreme right. The faces of the six Germans display varied emotions and are of different types; seen from behind they all resemble one another, for they all have the square head and straight thick neck of their race. The special correspondent of the *Evening Standard* thus describes the appearance of the delegates: "I cannot recall," he says "that ever I have been so moved to anger as I was to-day when I sat immediately behind the bull-necked Huns, well fed, sleek, garbed in broadcloth, and listened to the scarcely veiled insolence of Count Rantzau, and saw the contempt on the features of the red-whiskered Landsberg, the others of the six reclining with folded arms..." (Extract from *The Sphere*).