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[Greece & Turkey] Graecia Sophiani . . .

Stock#: 76016
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1624
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 875.00



Description:

Fine example of Ortelius' decorative map of Greece, Turkey, and Asia Minor, with neighboring islands, from Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas of the world.

Abraham Ortelius's map, "Graecia Sophiani," is a splendid work of cartography, acting as a detailed time capsule of sixteenth-century Greece. This impressive map stands out as the first popular map to widely disseminate the work of another renowned cartographer, Nikolaus Sophianos, and its own distinct visual and historical characteristics.

Nikolaus Sophianos, a Greek humanist, cartographer, and scholar of the Renaissance period, created his map of Greece around 1540. Born in Corfu, Sophianos moved to Rome and later to Basel, where he worked with Johannes Oporinus, a well-known printer of the time. His map of Greece, known for its detail and accuracy, was a significant achievement in the cartographic field. It was first published by Oporinus in Basel in 1545 as an eight-block woodcut map, and then later in 1552 as a four-sheet engraved map.

Sophianos's map was an innovative product of its time. It moved away from Ptolemaic conventions, providing an updated, detailed representation of Greece based on contemporary knowledge. It incorporated local place names, offering a more precise geographical picture than earlier maps. The map also included regions that were historically and culturally linked to Greece, extending its geographical scope.

Ortelius's "Graecia Sophiani" borrowed heavily from Sophianos's original. Ortelius, who was a contemporary of Sophianos, had a reputation for his detailed and aesthetically pleasing maps. He was a key figure in the golden age of Dutch cartography and is famously known for his work "Theatrum Orbis



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Terrarum," often considered the first modern atlas.

"Graecia Sophiani" is a clear testament to Ortelius's talent. The map retains the rich detail of Sophianos's original while adding the characteristic touches that made Ortelius's maps popular. Cities, rivers, mountains, and islands are all carefully detailed, capturing the varied terrain of Greece in an impressive manner.

"Graecia Sophiani" plays a significant role in the history of cartography. As a product of Ortelius's craft based on Sophianos's innovative original, the map reflects the progress in cartographic understanding during the sixteenth century. It bridges the works of two influential cartographers, each contributing to the evolution of map-making in their unique ways. Moreover, it preserves the geographical, historical, and cultural context of Greece during this period, providing valuable insight for modern scholars and enthusiasts alike.

Detailed Condition: