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OPAKH. Thraciae Veteris Typus . . .

Stock#: 81941
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1624
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 14 inches
Price: \$ 495.00



Description:

The map "OPAKH. Thraciae Veteris Typus" is a fine representation of Abraham Ortelius's work, illustrating the geography of ancient Thrace. Spanning from Byzantium, modern-day Istanbul, across the Bosphorus Straits to Macedonia, the map offers a detailed view of a region steeped in history.

This map was created based on Gastaldi's 1560 map of South East Europe and information from several ancient sources. The noted sources include reputable figures such as Herodotus, Plinius, Strabo, Appianus, Virgilius, Plutarchus, and Sidonius. Their diverse inputs paint a comprehensive image of the topographical and political landscape of ancient Thrace.

The representation of the region's natural features is one of the highlights of the map. Portions of the Black Sea, Sea of Marmara, and Thrakikon Pelagos are distinctly marked. The stipple engraving technique used to represent these bodies of water gives a textural quality to the map, adding a sense of depth and realism. In addition to the stippling, the areas are fully colored, enhancing their visual appeal and making them standout features of the map.

Ancient Thrace

Thrace, a historical and geographic region in Southeast Europe, holds a unique position in the annals of history due to its geographical location and cultural influences. This region, now a part of modern-day Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria, has long served as a bridge between Europe and Asia, its terrain encompassing both continental and maritime characteristics.



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The ancient Thracians, who inhabited the region from about 1000 BC, were renowned for their warrior culture, metalwork, and horse breeding. Known in Greek mythology as the homeland of the hero Orpheus, Thrace played a prominent role in classical literature and history. Throughout its history, Thrace has been the stage for numerous conflicts due to its strategic location at the crossroads of several important land and sea routes.

Thrace was first brought under Persian control in the late 6th century BC before it was taken over by Alexander the Great's Macedonian empire in the late 4th century BC. This conquest set the stage for a period of Hellenistic influence, as Thrace was Hellenized culturally, politically, and linguistically.

In 46 AD, Thrace was annexed by the Roman Empire and became a province. Roman rule led to urban development and the propagation of Roman culture and law throughout the region. This marked a period of stability and prosperity, which persisted until the decline of the Western Roman Empire.

In the medieval period, Thrace fell under the rule of the Byzantine Empire, which brought Orthodox Christianity and further influenced the local culture. Following the fall of Constantinople in 1453, Thrace entered into Ottoman control, where it remained until the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In modern times, the territory of ancient Thrace has been divided among Greece, Turkey, and Bulgaria. Despite these divisions, the region retains a rich and shared history marked by cultural exchanges, external influences, and an ever-changing political landscape.

Detailed Condition: