



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(1st State) [Duchy of Franconia] Franconia XII Nova Tabula

Stock#: 95908
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1540
Place: Basle
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 15 x 11.5 inches
Price: \$ 475.00



Description:

First State of one of the earliest obtainable modern maps of the Franconia Region

Rare first state of Sebastian Munster's "Franconia XII Nova Tabula" from his monumental *Geographia*.

First published in 1540, the map is one of the earliest obtainable modern maps of the Franconian Region located east of what is present-day Frankfurt Am Main. The region depicted in Munster's map is dense with urban centers that held immense historical importance, including Würzburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Wertheim, and Fulda.

A deeper look into the map reveals a meticulous detailing of the region's rivers, with the Main, Tauber, Regnitz, and Pegnitz flowing like arteries, sustaining life and enabling movement. Such detailing was crucial for traders, travelers, and planners of the time as it provided them with essential information for navigation and commerce.

Yet, one of the most captivating aspects of Munster's map is its depiction of the Franconian region's natural landscapes. The region, celebrated for its lush forests and undulating hills, is brought to life through the map's artistry. The forests, represented in dense clusters, and the sporadic representations of mountains provide a tantalizing glimpse into the topographical nuances of the region. This not only served a practical purpose for travelers but also encapsulated the region's beauty and ruggedness.

Franconia in the 16th Century: A Nexus of Power and Transition



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The 16th century marked an era of profound change throughout Europe, with the German region of Franconia being no exception. The Middle Ages were giving way to the Renaissance, and as with much of the Holy Roman Empire, Franconia saw religious, political, and social upheavals that would shape its destiny and the broader European landscape.

As part of the Holy Roman Empire, the region was under the overarching rule of the Emperor, yet it retained significant autonomy thanks to its collection of smaller territories governed by these local rulers. In the middle part of the 16th century, one could not discuss the empire without acknowledging Charles V, who ruled from 1519 to 1556. Under his reign, the empire expanded its territories and faced the transformative impacts of the Protestant Reformation.

The Reformation, ignited by Martin Luther in 1517, had profound implications for Franconia. With religious reform came social and political consequences. The Peace of Augsburg in 1555, a treaty signed within the Holy Roman Empire, allowed rulers of the German states to choose between Lutheranism and Catholicism, leading to further fragmentation and tension. Franconia, with its patchwork of territories, witnessed a mosaic of religious choices, creating a complex tapestry of Lutheran and Catholic regions.

Several local rulers stand out in Franconia's history. One notable figure was Albrecht Alcibiades, Margrave of Brandenburg-Kulmbach. A Protestant, he became embroiled in the tumultuous religious wars of the time. The Schmalkaldic War (1546-1547), which saw Protestant princes of the Schmalkaldic League face off against the Catholic Emperor Charles V, drew in figures like Alcibiades. Although the war concluded with a Catholic victory at the Battle of Mühlberg, it set the stage for further religious confrontations in the empire.

Economic growth and development also characterized Franconia in the 16th century. The region's cities, such as Würzburg, Bamberg, and Nuremberg, grew in prominence as centers of trade, art, and education. Nuremberg, in particular, rose as a hub of the Northern Renaissance, with artists like Albrecht Dürer playing pivotal roles in making the city a beacon of culture and innovation.

Detailed Condition: