



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

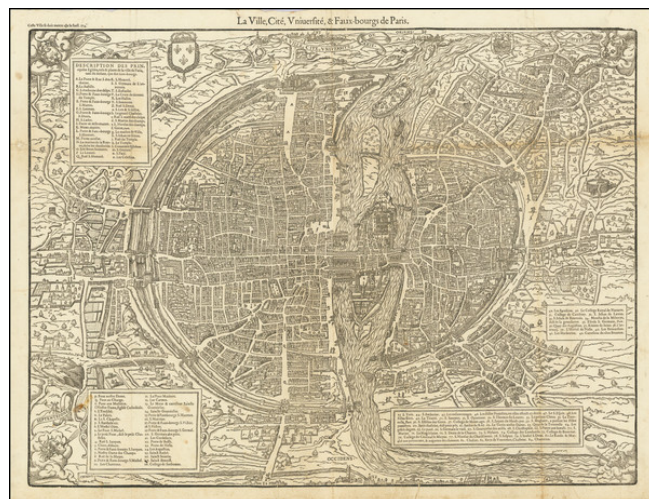
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Paris] La Ville, Cite, Universite, & Faux-Bourgs de Paris

Stock#: 103453
Map Maker: De Belleforest
Date: 1575
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 21.5 x 16.5 inches
Price: \$ 2,400.00



Description:

Large 16th Century Woodcut Plan of Paris

Scarce early plan of Paris, from De Belleforest's French edition of Sebastian Munster's *Cosmographia*.

In 1544, the scholar and geographer Sebastian Munster published his *Cosmographia*, one of the most important and influential works of its type in the 16th century. In 1575, the Paris publisher Francois de Belleforest issued a French edition of the work which included this spectacular woodcut view of Paris.

Rather than reproducing Munster's view, Belleforest compiled and created a woodcut plan on a much larger scale, which was more detailed and embellished, better showing the Paris layout and monuments.

The view gives an excellent understanding of Paris as it appeared in the late 16th century, and it identifies and lists more than a hundred notable sites, including churches, streets, plazas, bridges, notable buildings, and city gates. Among these are the Bastille, then a prison; the Louvre, then a recently inaugurated palace of relatively humble dimensions; the Sorbonne; Nôtre-Dame; Montmartre; St. Sulpice; and many more. The urban developments of Henri IV, such as the building of the Pont-Neuf and the creation of open public spaces like the Place des Vosges and the Place Dauphine, were still several decades away (not to mention the extensive changes to the urban fabric that were to take place under Baron Hausmann in the 19th century, with the imposition of a sweeping system of broad boulevards). Belle-Forest's view is one of the best records of Paris as it was in the Renaissance, before the successive campaigns of urban development would profoundly transform the city into the form it assumes today.



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One of best obtainable 16th Century plans of Paris.

Detailed Condition:

Minor tear at upper left margin, expertly repaired on verso. Evidence of old folds. Minor discoloration along folds.