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Moscovia Urbs Metropolis Totius Russia Albae (Rare 1st State!)

Stock#: 34992
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1617
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18 x 14 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare first state (or proof state) of Braun & Hogenberg's Plan of Moscow.

This decorative and detailed plan of Moscow (Moskva) appeared in volume 6 of Braun & Hogenberg's of the *Civitates Orbis Theatrum*. Because first appeared in 1617 in the final volume of this great work, it is far rarer than Braun & Hogenberg's first plan of of Moscow, which was first issued in 1575. {{ inventory_detail_link('33973') }}

There are apparently two states of this view. The first state (offered here), includes a key locating 20 places on the map, with corresponding numbers placed within the map itself. The second and more common state includes 3 lines of text in the map, one to the right of the #18, and two additional lines in the open spaces between the city walls toward the bottom part of the map, noting the "Intima", "Secunda" and "Tertia" parts of the City. {{ inventory_detail_link('33663') }}

The map is believed to be derived from a Russian survey prepared at the orders of Boris Fyodorovich Godunov (c. 1551-1605), Czar of Muscovy from 1598 onward, and was probably prepared prior to 1630. The original Russian plan has apparantly not survived, and Braun & Hogenberg may have used a copy made in 1610 for King Sigismund III of Poland.

The plan shows the old city which surrounds the Kremlin and the Kitai Gorod or Fortified City. The name Kremlin first appeared as Kreml' (or High Town) in an account of the fire in the town in 1331. It was founded in 1147 at the junction of two rivers, the Moskva and the Neglinnaya. As Moscow grew, the Kremlin became the royal, religious and secular heart of the city. Until Czar Peter I transferred his seat of



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government to his new city of St Petersburg in 1713, it was the capital city. beyond the walls of Kitai Gorod, another section grew up, called Belgorod or White City, which was in 1584 after the death of Czar Ivan the Terrible with a wall which spanned 6 miles and included 28 towers.

While we have handled the second state of this map on a number of occasions, this is the first time we have seen this early edition, which may have been a proof state.

Detailed Condition:

Minor fold split at lower fold, repaired on verso.