Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Riga, Percommode ad Duna Amnem Sita, Emporium Celebre, et Livoniae Metropolis

Stock#: 54056
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg

Date: 1581
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 16 x 5.5 inches

Price: SOLD

Description:

A fine early view of Riga, first published by Braun and Hogenberg in 1581. This is one of the earliest obtainable views of the city and was heavily based on Munster's slightly earlier map of the city. This map appeared in Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum.*

The city is pictured from the southwest, from across the Duna (now known as the Daugava). The city pictured in detail, and its spires and landmarks are still recognizable today. Three churches are named: those of St. Peter, St. Jacobm, and "Der Thum," most likely Riga Cathedral (*Dum* means "cathedral" in modern German, and the positioning is approximately correct). In addition, the town hall and the castle are all labeled. Some of these buildings were partially destroyed during later wars ranging from the Great Northern War to World War II. The rest of the old town is shown with its many attractive buildings. Ships sale through the river and phantom hills surround the city.

Riga was an important Baltic city since Medieval times. At the time this map was created, Riga and greater Old Livonia were being fought over by the many powers of northern Europe. Russia invaded the region in 1558, attempting to take over, but was repelled by a variety of forces. At the end of the war, the Free Imperial City of Riga was transferred to the Commonwealth of Lithuania and Poland.

Detailed Condition:
Lower half of Braun & Hogenberg view. Top margin added.