



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

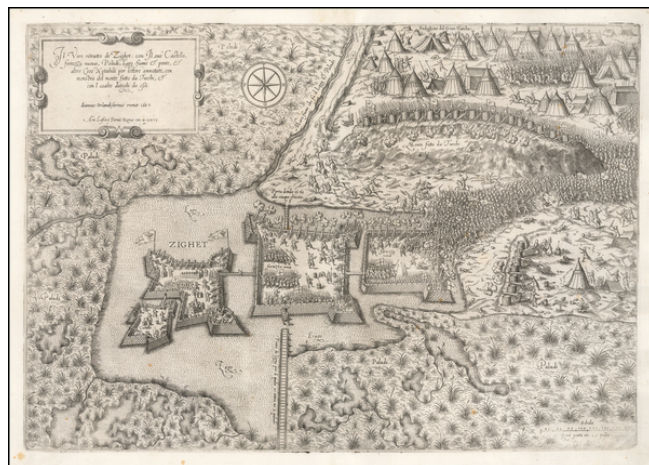
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(The Battle That Saved Civilization) Il Vero ritratto de Zighet con Il suo Castello, fortezza nuova, Paludi, Lago fiume & ponte, & altre Cose Notabili per lettere annotate, con monstra del monte fatto da Turchi, & con l'asalto datogli da essi . . .

Stock#: 55072
Map Maker: Lafreri / Orlandi
Date: 1566 (1602)
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 15.5 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Battle That Saved Civilization

Fine example of the second state of Antonio Lafreri's map of the Battle of Szigeth (Siege of Szigetvár), an important 16th Century battle between Turkish and Magyar forces, which saw the death of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and the end of the Ottoman advance toward Vienna during the 16th Century.

The map shows a meticulous image of the battle, with the Magyar forces battling from the walled castle and "fortezza nova," defending against the much larger Ottoman forces firing across the water, with mounted horsemen and canon shown.

The location of the tent of Suleiman the Magnificent (padiglione del gran turcho) is shown at the top of the map.

The Battle of Szigeth

The Siege of Szigetvár or Battle of Szigeth was a siege of the fortress of Szigetvár, Kingdom of Hungary, that blocked Suleiman's line of advance towards Vienna in 1566 AD. The battle was fought between the defending forces of the Habsburg Monarchy under the leadership of Nikola Šubić Zrinski, former Ban of Croatia, and the invading Ottoman army under the nominal command of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

After the Battle of Mohács in 1526, which resulted in the end of the independent Kingdom of Hungary,



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Ferdinand I was elected King by the nobles of both Hungary and Croatia. This was followed by a series of conflicts with the Habsburgs and their allies, fighting against the Ottoman Empire. In the Little War in Hungary both sides exhausted themselves after sustaining heavy casualties. The Ottoman campaign in Hungary ceased until the offensive against Szigetvár.

In January 1566, Suleiman went to war for the last time. The siege of Sziget lasted from August 6 to September 8, 1566 and, though it resulted in an Ottoman victory, there were heavy losses on both sides. Both commanders died during the battle-Zrinski in the final charge and Suleiman in his tent from natural causes. More than 20,000 Turks had fallen during the attacks and almost all of Zrinski's 2,300 man garrison was killed, with most of the final 600 men killed on the last day. Although the battle was an Ottoman victory, it stopped the Ottoman push to Vienna that year. Vienna was not threatened again until the Battle of Viennain 1683.

The importance of the battle was considered so great that the French clergyman and statesman Cardinal Richelieu was reported to have described it as "the battle that saved civilization." The battle is still famous in Croatia and Hungary and inspired both the Hungarian epic poem The Siege of Sziget and the Croatian opera Nikola Šubić Zrinski.

Rarity

There are at least 3 states of this map. All three are very rare.

- Antonio Lafreri (1566)
- Giovanni Orlandi (1602)
- Hendrick Van Schoel (1602)

Detailed Condition:

A few minor spots