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[Savona Province and Environs]

Stock#: 65400
Map Maker: Anonymous
Date: 1745 circa
Place: n.p.
Color: Pen & Ink with Wash Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 10.5 x 9.5 inches
Price: \$ 345.00



Description:

Detailed manuscript map of the Savona Province of Italy, drawn during the War of Spanish Succession.

The map was drawn during the period when the region and all of the Republic of Genoa was overrun by Charles Emmanuel III.

Italian Campaigns - War of Austrian Succession

In October 1740, Emperor Charles VI died. He left a single heir, his daughter the Archduchess Maria Theresa.

The Holy Roman Empire was an elective monarchy. Charles VI, however, negotiated with the ruling houses of Europe and the magnates of his monarchy to accept Maria Theresa as his legitimate and rightful heir and the next empress. It did not work. As soon as he died, the Bavarian and Saxon electors competed for the crown; and King Frederick II of Prussia, newly ascended to the throne, rejected Maria Theresa's legitimacy and invaded Silesia, wealthiest of the Habsburg territories. A French auxiliary corps was dispatched to central Germany in accordance with the Treaty of Westphalia, "to defend German liberties."

The Spanish royal family decided the war offered an opportunity to reclaim Milan. A Spanish army landed in Tuscany and marched north to the Padana Plain. Then, Philip V asked his son Charles VII of Naples to return the army he lent him in 1733 to the Neapolitan and Sicilian thrones. Neapolitan troops marched



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north to join the Spanish army.

France requested Piedmontese permission to cross the Alps and march on Milan, but Charles Emmanuel III did not want to involve his state in this conflict. He realized that, in case of a French and Spanish victory, Piedmont would be caught between the Bourbons. It meant the end of any autonomous policy and of any possible dream of expanding his power in Italy. Moreover, he threatened the approaching Spanish army that if it entered the Padana Plain, his army would cut its route to Milan.

At the same time, Britain perceived the precarious situation as a threat to the Balance of Power and committed its resources to the Habsburg cause. Charles Emmanuel received a £250,000 annual subsidy to keep his army on a war footing. Then, a British squadron entered the Mediterranean under Admiral Matthews, ordered to act in support of Charles Emmanuel. The British ships entered Naples harbor with some five thousand marines. Charles VII had no fleet and very few men to defend the city because his army had marched north. So, when Matthews presented an ultimatum: recall all his regiments with the Spanish army, or the city would be shelled and the marines landed, Charles VII had little recourse but to accept the terms.

Not wanting to face isolation, the Spanish withdrew through the Papal States along the Adriatic coast. Soon after, Charles Emmanuel countermarched rapidly to meet a second Spanish army entering Savoy via France. He won the campaign, but it was clear that the war was becoming harder to manage.

In 1743, the Spanish threatened Piedmont with two armies. Charles Emmanuel crushed Prince Philip's army, marching from France, at Casteldelfino. Simultaneously, the Piedmontese with their Habsburg allies fought and defeated the second army under de Gages at Camposanto, on the other side of Italy and pressed it to the Neapolitan-Papal States border on the Adriatic coast.

In the autumn of 1743, Britain joined Piedmont and Austria in a formal league. The treaty signed in Worms widened the scope of the conflict from Europe to Asia, Africa, and America, where it was known as King George's War.

The 1744 campaign was hard fought. Maria Theresa wanted Naples because, according to the Peace of Utrecht, it should have remained in Habsburg hands, yet the War of Polish Succession had reversed that agreement. Charles Emmanuel warned the Austrian ruler that this would only increase the strategic dilemma. Regardless, she ordered her army to destroy de Gages's Spanish army still waiting on the Neapolitan frontier. Charles VII of Naples, aware of the Austrian menace, declared war and once again united his troops with his father's army.

An Austrian army marched south, passing through the Papal States from the Adriatic to the Tyrrhenian



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coast. Charles VII gathered the Spanish and Neapolitan army and encamped near Velletri, south of Rome. The Austrians attacked in August and were repulsed with great loss. The defeat forced the Habsburgs to abandon central Italy. The Neapolitan-Spanish army followed on their heels, arriving in northern Italy.

France officially entered the war in that same year. A French army united with Prince Philip's army passed the Alps, defeated the local Piedmontese resistance, and besieged Cuneo. Charles Emmanuel then directed the militia against the enemy's ordnance and supply lines and, thanks to these guerrilla tactics and to Cuneo's resistance, the Bourbon armies raised the siege and withdrew to France to take winter quarters.

Detailed Condition: