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Antverpia

Stock#: 69973
Map Maker: Merian
Date: 1638
Place: Frankfurt
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 11 inches
Price: \$ 495.00



Description:

A detailed town plan of Antwerp, showing fortified walls, city gates, the inner ring of the city, important public buildings, squares, and more. A key names thirty-two important places in the city. The coat of arms in the upper left shows the symbol of the city, overlain by the Hapsburg imperial eagle.

The city is here pictured from the east. Our Lady of Antwerp is seen in the center of the image, with its spires rising high above the city. Other landmarks still visible include St. James's Church (*Sint-Jacobskerk*) and the port of Antwerp. Interestingly, Antwerp Castle and extensive fortifications are pictured upriver from the city. Evidence for this castle is strongly lacking, and Het Steen, the famous 16th-century fortress on the Scheldt should be almost directly in front of Our Lady of Antwerp. This latter does not appear to be shown.

Antwerp was historically one of the most important cities in Belgium, partly due to its convenient location on the lower Scheldt. The city was in a decline at the time this map was made, following the Spanish Fury and wars in the region. The city was then almost dealt a death blow in 1648, ten years after this map was made when the Scheldt was closed to navigation by the Treaty of Munster. For nearly two hundred years, the ships shown in this map would not have been able to sail to Antwerp. The city was able to regain status during the 19th century, and despite being extensively bombed during World War II (more V-2 rockets were fired on Antwerp than on any other target), many of its landmarks survived.

Detailed Condition:

Trimmed at left margin. Minor discoloration at centerfold.