



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

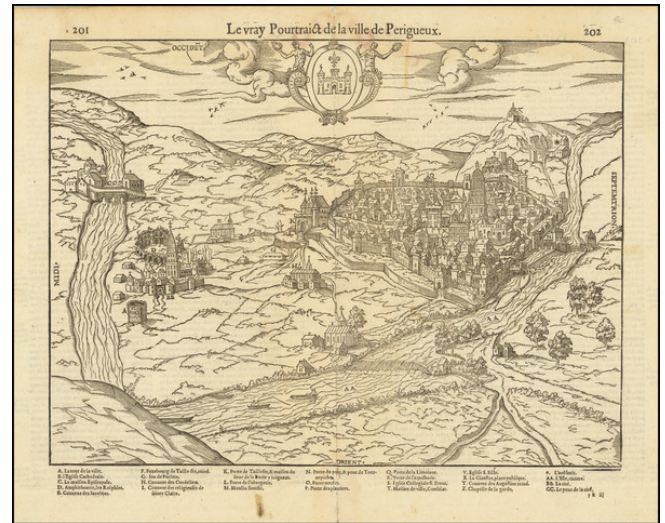
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[Périgueux] La vray Pourtraict de la ville de Périgueux

Stock#: 74056
Map Maker: De Belleforest
Date: 1575
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 11.5 inches (Including text)
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce view of the city of Périgueux, from De Belleforest's French edition of Sebastian Munster's *Cosmographia*.

The name Périgueux comes from Petrocorii, a Latinization of Celtic words meaning "the four tribes" - the Gallic people that held the area before the Roman conquest. Périgueux was their capital city. In 200 BC, the Petrocorii came from the north and settled at Périgueux and established an encampment at La Boissière. After the Roman invasion, they left this post and established themselves on the plain of L'Isle, and the town of Vesunna was created. This Roman city was eventually embellished with amenities such as temples, baths, amphitheatres, and a forum.

At the end of the third century AD, the Roman city was surrounded by ramparts, and the town took the name of *Civitas Petrocoriorum*. In the 10th century, Le Puy-Saint-Front was constructed around an abbey next to the old Gallo-Roman city. It was organized into a municipality around 1182.

In 1544, the scholar and geographer Sebastian Munster published his *Cosmographia*, one of the most important and influential works of its type in the 16th century.

Belleforest's work is an adaptation of Sébastien Münster's *Cosmographia* first published in Basel in 1544. As Münster had been mainly concerned with Germany, the chapters on France had to be rewritten in order to make the work more interesting to a French audience. Belleforest had sent local elites in major cities across the country a request for information on regional history and geography. As a good philologist, he relied above all on recognized textual authorities, which set him against André Thevet, who



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[Perigueux] La vray Pourtraict de la Ville de Perigueux

published his Cosmographie universelle in 1575. In the vehement controversy between the two authors, Thévet says of Belleforest that he "never traveled by name more "Than the Owls who repaired in the Aqueduct of Athens, or at the Byzantine Hippodrome". Belleforest replied to the accusations by arguing that a single man could never visit all regions of the earth and that a traveler could easily lie, for lack of possibilities to verify the veracity of his account. "

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling.