



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Gotha, Germany) Gotta

Stock#: 75054
Map Maker: Nelli
Date: 1567
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 16.25 x 12.25 inches
Price: \$ 2,200.00



Description:

Fantastic Lafreri School bird's-eye view of the 1567 Siege of Gotha, the culmination of the "rather bizarre" Grumbach Feud period of the Holy Roman Empire. Engraved in fine Italian detail, the map was engraved in Venice by Nicolo Nelli in the same year as the aforementioned siege.

This fine copperplate engraving shows in grand detail the fortified city of Gotha, with individual buildings, wells, and more shown, and buildings of importance named. Detail extends into the countryside, with various smaller towns shown with their fields and military movements shown throughout. As with many of the superior Lafreri School prints, this view shows a remarkable and evocative eye for detail.

The map describes the siege as follows:

Alli 25 di Gennaro 1567 su posto l'asedio sotto la gran fortezza di Grimesteim insieme con la citta di Gotta dall'essercito del sacro Imperio li quali luoghi furono d'alli Cittadini dali nelle mani del Comissario dell' Imperio, all 13 di Aprile, insieme con li ribelli, et alli 17 furono seconod i loro demeriti giusticiati.

This describes the Siege of Gotha, which followed the decline of the Ernestine line of the House of Wettin. After the division of the House in 1485, this lineage had won control of the Electorate of Saxony, however, the loss of the Schmalkaldic War against the Holy Roman Emperor in 1547 led to the abdication of the Electorate, as well as any imperial privileges and the invocation of an imperial ban. A younger member of the Ernestine line, John Frederick II, took it upon himself to reclaim power for the Ernestines, and was goaded on to staking a claim to the Electorate by Willhelm von Grumbach. Grumbach's plan involved a



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Gotha, Germany) Gotta

series of unlikely events, including a general insurrection of knights and the use of magic charms. Grumbach managed to forge some alliances and plot various assassinations, and the successful siege of Gotha was one of the high points in the insurrection. However, the plan would eventually fail and John Frederick II would be imprisoned and Grumbach dismembered.

Rarity

This map is relatively rare for a Lafreri School work. Bifulco and Ronca list eight institutional examples.

Detailed Condition:

Margins extended contemporaneously with 16th-century paper in the Lafreri School style. Some toning at the centerfold and where the margins have been joined.