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Thionvil

Stock#: 75323
Map Maker: de Valentinis
Date: 1558 circa
Place: Venice
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16.5 x 12 inches
Price: \$ 2,800.00



Description:

Fine example of a rare Italian map of Thionville, attributed to Sebastiano de Valentinis, showing the 1558 siege of the city. This richly engraved map shows French artillery and cavalry forces attacking the Spanish-held city. This map was engraved in the Lafreri School style.

The map shows the course of the Moselle River, wrapping around the city of Thionville. The city is near the present-day Luxembourg and German border and was a point of contention during the Italian War of 1551-59. This war was fought between the Habsburg Charles V and Valois Henri II, and was an attempt at a Habsburg reconquest of Italy and dominance in central European affairs. The war, in part, resulted in the division of the Habsburg empire. The war was particularly notable for the novel and extensive use of gunpowder. This can be seen on the map, with the many cannons firing on the city, and the marching riflemen.

The Siege of Thionville resulted in a French victory led by Francis, Duke de Guise. However, the town did not remain under French control for long, as a treaty signed in 1559 returned all conquered territories back to their previous owners. However, all inhabitants were forced to leave the cities before they were exchanged, thus Thionville was returned empty.

A series of depictions of Thionville appeared in Italy in the mid-16th century, stemming from a Roman-published view by Nicolas Beatrizet. The map is attributed to de Valentinis by Bifulco and Ronca.

Rarity

Bifulco and Ronca list eight examples of the map, including the present in their very thorough census.



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Detailed Condition:

Extended on 16th-century margins contemporaneously. Manuscript in the lower right margin.