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(Inn Valley, Austria) Elegantissimus a parte Orientali Oenipontis prospectus. [An exquisitely beautiful view from the eastern part of Innsbruck.]

Stock#: 94422
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1598 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 14 inches
Price: \$ 375.00



Description:

This impressive landscape view, created by Georg Braun and Frans Hogenberg and engraved by Georg Hoefnagel after Alexander Colijn, is a remarkable historical document, offering a glimpse of the Inn Valley, Austria, from an easterly perspective. The detail is exquisite, showcasing their topographical prowess and artistic talent, truly a testament to the Golden Age of Cartography during which it was created.

Unusually dynamic for a city atlas, the illustration depicts a lively rural landscape nestled within the dramatic high mountains under an expressive, cloudy sky. This animation imparts a sense of life and vibrancy, reflecting the bustling activity of the era it represents.

On the left, the engraving prominently displays Ambras Castle, which had been in the possession of the Habsburgs since 1363. The name of the castle derives from the Latin phrase "ad umbras," meaning "in the shade," an apt description given its location near a hill, providing a refreshing retreat during the summer months, as mentioned by Braun in his commentary.

The castle was extensively renovated into a Renaissance-style structure by Archduke Ferdinand II when he became the governor of Tyrol in 1563. Archduke Ferdinand II's contribution to the castle was not merely architectural; he also founded the Ambras collections, a remarkable assemblage of art and curiosities. This included the Amraser Heldenbuch, or the Ambras Book of Heroes, an anthology of epic medieval and chivalric tales from the 12th and 13th centuries.

The small village of Amras, now a suburb of Innsbruck, lies below the castle to the right. This detail further highlights the artists' commitment to accurately depict the region's geography and settlement



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patterns.

In sum, this view serves as a historical record, providing insight into both the landscape and cultural milieu of Innsbruck in the Renaissance period. The illustration is more than just a geographical depiction; it's a testament to the artistry and craftsmanship of the period, capturing the confluence of historical events, architectural developments, and cultural richness in the region.

Detailed Condition:

Toning and soiling.