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Mexico Regia et Celebris Hispaniae Novae Civitas (and) Cusco, Rengi Peru in Novo Orbe . . .

Stock#: 94452
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1572 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 11 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An attractive example of Braun & Hogenberg's views of Mexico City and Cusco, among the earliest printed views of any American city. Published in Braun and Hogenberg's monumental city atlas, *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, these are the only two American views to be included.

The Mexico City view shows it on the still undrained Lake Tenochtitlan, connected by many walkways to the mainland. In the background, European-style shrubbery gives way to high mountains.

In contrast to the Mexican view, Cuzco is presented as an orderly city with a great palace at the outside. Each view includes indigenous scenes at the front of the image.

Georg Braun wrote the following commentary on Mexico City, translated here:

Mexico, or Tenochtitlan, is a rich and important city in New Spain in the Mexican provinces, lying in a saltwater lake. There are many heathen temples here, which their priests live in; the most important amongst them is a temple whose quite incredible magnificence is described in detail by Hernan Cortés. They make their heathen images out of flour and human blood, and every day sacrifice a large number of human hearts to them, which they cut out of the living bodies. A magnificent palace belonging to the most powerful lord, Moctezuma, also stands here.

A translation of his commentary on Cusco follows:

The capital of Peru in the south of the New World is Cusco, a city so large, powerful, and beautiful that it can easily rank alongside the most important cities in Spain and France [...] The streets are



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generally very straight with numerous crossroads and a stream flows down most streets. The city is particularly embellished by a wonderful palace that lies on a steep hill and has no comparison in Europe.

Detailed Condition:

Minor spotting in the margins.