Anverpia, nobile in Brahantia

Stock#:   95274
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg

Date: 1572 (1593)
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 14 inches

Price: $ 975.00

Description:

With Dedication to Ferdinand Alvarez of Toledo, Duke of Alba

The exquisite view of Antwerp as captured by Braun & Hogenberg in the 16th century reveals a city of paramount historical importance. The scene conveys a wealth of intricate details that reflect the city's status as a dynamic center of trade and commerce.

Dominating the left of the frame is the vital artery of Antwerp – the Scheldt River, a bustling river filled with ships of various designs and sizes. This flourishing scene underscores the city's significance in the maritime trade routes, connecting diverse cultures, including the Germans, Spaniards, Britons, Italians and the French.

Guarding the city, the impressive fortifications are a testament to the city's strategic importance and the precariousness of the era. The city walls, with numerous ramparts and bulwarks, depict a city prepared for any eventualities of conflict. Encompassing these fortifications are the intricate canals, effectively serving as an extra layer of defense and control, their strategic importance impossible to overstate.

Embellishing the top corners of the map are two distinguished coats of arms, symbolizing the power and prestige associated with the city and the region. Their detailed renderings serve as reminders of the important political alliances of the time.

The city's urban landscape, meticulously portrayed in the plan, is adorned with grandiose public and private buildings. Of these, the towering spires of the churches of Antwerp stand out, their awe-inspiring architectural details a testament to the city's economic and religious importance.

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In the late 16th century, Antwerp was under Spanish control, its wealth and strategic location making it a valuable asset to the Habsburg Monarchy. The city's trade and commerce thrived under this regime, contributing to its status as one of the wealthiest cities of the time.

Finally, the text in the lower left corner of the image, elegantly scripted, translates as follows:

> *Antwerp, now a noble town in Brabant, is visited by the French, Germans, Spaniards, and Britons due to its maritime location and wonderfully flourishing trade. It shines with public and private buildings, notably the incredibly tall Temple of the Virgin, made of white stone, and the Hanseatic, English, and Portuguese buildings. The fortified walls of Antwerp, from Cronenburg to the Caesar Gate, were built in the year of our Lord 1567, on November 5. It is surrounded by a wall, a ditch and water, and fortified with numerous bulwarks made from living rock. Inside, a wide-open area is enclosed, where the garrison soldiers live. In the middle of the area stands a golden statue of Aeneas, cast at great expense by the order of the most serene King of Spain, to the illustrious Duke of Alba, whose entire body it closely resembles, erected in a peaceful pose, out of goodwill and gratitude. At its foot, it carries an inscription:*

> *To Ferdinand Alvarez of Toledo, Duke of Alba, Governor of Philip II of Spain in the Netherlands. For extinguishing the rebellion, driving out the rebels, ensuring the practice of religion, cultivating justice, and establishing peace in the province, as the most faithful servant of the best king. Erected.*

The Braun & Hogenberg view of Antwerp, therefore, encapsulates the vibrant spirit and remarkable resilience of a city that thrived amidst the turbulence of its era, its buildings, fortifications, and river reflecting its vital role in the cultural and economic landscape of 16th-century Europe.

Detailed Condition:
Latin text on verso (1593)