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[Bornos and Zahara de la Sierra] Bornnes [with:] Zahara

Stock#: 96138
Map Maker: Braun / Hogenberg
Date: 1596 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.75 x 14 inches
Price: \$ 395.00



Description:

Fine late 16th Century set of views showing the Andalusian town of Bornos and a pair of views of Zahara de la Sierra, published in Braun & Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, the most important town book of the 16th Century.

Situated on the Guadalete, nestled against the eastern slopes of the Sierra del Calvario, the town of Bornos presents a tableau of a rich and varied history. It has been a home to human civilizations for an astonishing 30,000 years. From the early settlers to the Iberians and later the Romans, Bornos evolved as a mosaic of cultures. Its zenith was arguably under Moorish rule, when it became a fortified beacon in the Fontanar region. The majestic Castillo Palacio de los Ribera, formerly known as the Moorish Castillo del Fontanar, stands as a testament to this era and remains a focal point for visitors. Bornos was eventually claimed by Christian troops in the 13th century, marking another pivotal chapter in its storied past.

Zahara de la Sierra's depiction in Braun & Hogenberg's work stands out for its unique dual perspectives. As Braun noted, the town's remarkable location inspired Hoefnagel to present both its sides. Perched atop a high rock, the fortress is framed against the backdrop of primordial times, richly woven with tales from the Granada War. This was a place that saw the tides of diplomacy and war alter its fate, especially during the time the Christian princes were engrossed in the Portuguese War. The mastery of the Margrave of Cadiz is highlighted, as he played a pivotal role in reclaiming Zahara from the Moors and restoring it to Christian control.

The two views of the fortress offer contrasting perspectives. From the southeast, the fortress seems almost impregnable, casting its shadow over the Guadalete Valley. The view from the north emphasizes its



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majestic elevation and the dominance it holds over the terrain. Founded in the 8th century by the Arabs, Zahara de la Sierra, with its pristine white buildings, was a vital station en route to Granada during Moorish times. Notably, the colorist of the engraving seemed unaware of this architectural color palette. By 1483, the Christians had taken over Zahara. Today, remnants of its past, including the ruins and the square keep of the 12th-century Moorish fortress, still stand, inviting curious eyes to delve into its history.

Detailed Condition:

Old Color