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(Mechelen) Nitidissimae Civitatis Mechlineensis In Meditullio Brabantiae Sitae Exactis: Delineatio

Stock#: 96143
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1581 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18 x 13 inches
Price: \$ 345.00



Description:

Nitidissimae Civitatis Mechlineensis In Meditullio Brabantiae Sitae Exactis: Delineatio, engraved and published in Cologne in 1581 by the renowned duo Braun & Hogenberg, presents a faithful view of the illustrious town of Mechelen, situated at the heart of Brabant. As a historical city, Mechelen witnessed significant events and shifts in power, most notably when Charles the Bold transferred the Supreme Court to the locale in 1473. This remarkable map offers insights into the urban landscape and the architectural essence of Mechelen in the late 16th century.

The late medieval period was a time of profound transformation for Mechelen. Initially acquiring prominence through staple rights and the cloth trade, Mechelen burgeoned into a celebrated center of commerce. The city's architectural landscape, dominated by structures such as the towering Sint-Rombout cathedral, which stands at an impressive height of nearly 100 meters, and the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwe church constructed in the Brabantine late Gothic style, testify to its rich historical and cultural lineage. The bird's-eye view, with its portrayal from the northwest, illuminates the near-circular formation of the inner city, showing the expansion beyond the canal delineating the ancient city walls.

Franz Hogenberg's connection to Mechelen, noted as his birthplace, is immortalized in the precise detailing of the city's topography. The presence of significant buildings and establishments gives viewers insights into the evolving urban fabric of Mechelen. The subsequent Habsburg rule, beginning in 1477, witnessed the city's rise as the capital of the Habsburg Netherlands from 1507 to 1530 under the regency of Margaret of Austria. The transition of Mechelen into an archbishopric in 1559 and its pivotal role during

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the Wars of Religion as a nucleus of the Counter-Reformation further solidified its historical significance.

The map is a testament to Mechelen's multifaceted history - from its economic rise through trade to its political and religious prominence within the Habsburg Netherlands. The documentation of this city, its streets, and its edifices provide invaluable insights into the socio-economic and political milieu of the late 16th century.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Early ink manuscript name of the city in the top margin.