



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Chios, Greece) Chios Maris Aegaei eius dem nominis Insulae Civitas.

Stock#: 96859
Map Maker: Braun / Hogenberg
Date: 1599
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18 x 12.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

This bird's-eye view from Braun & Hogenberg's renowned *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* depicts Chios, a historic city on its eponymous Aegean island, renowned for its seaport and rich cultural heritage. The view is a testament to the city's thriving commerce and strategic importance in the late 16th century, capturing its layout and vibrant maritime activity.

The depiction of Chios in this engraving is particularly notable for its detailed portrayal of the city's dual structure: the fortified Byzantine Castro and the urban settlement. This division highlights the historical significance of Chios as a fortified island, reflecting its tumultuous past marked by multiple sovereignties. The inclusion of the Castro, with its imposing watchtowers, moat, and drawbridge, speaks to the city's defensive strategies against frequent invasions and its strategic position in the Aegean Sea. Conversely, the representation of the urban area provides insight into the daily life and architectural style of the period.

Chios's history is deeply intertwined with its economic pursuits, most notably its production of Chian wine and mastic, a resin unique to the island. The commentary by Braun on the verso of the engraving emphasizes the island's historical reputation for these products, as attested by ancient historians like Thucydides, Strabo, and Aelian. This economic focus not only underlines the island's agricultural richness but also its significance in ancient trade networks. The presence of windmills along the coastline in the engraving further accentuates the island's agricultural fertility and its role in the regional economy.

The geopolitical context of Chios during the late 16th century adds another layer of historical depth to the engraving. The island's shift from Venetian to Genoese control, and ultimately to the Ottoman Empire in



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1566, indicates the broader political and cultural shifts in the Mediterranean during this era. The conversion of the 10th-century church of Aghios Nikolaos into a mosque post-1566, as depicted in the engraving, symbolizes these shifts and reflects the complex interplay of different cultures and religions on the island.

Detailed Condition: