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[Amalfi Coast / Salerno] Principato Citra olim Picentia

Stock#: 98621
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1640
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19.5 x 15 inches
Price: \$ 675.00



Description:

Amalfi Coast to Gulf of Policastro

Fascinating mid 17th Century map of *Principato Citra olim Picentia*, covering today's Province of Salerno, specifically the area once known as Picentia in the Campania region of Italy.

The map encompasses the territory approximately aligning with today's Province of Salerno, including the idyllic towns of the Amalfi Coast.

During the first half of the 17th century, this region was under Spanish rule. The map meticulously marks significant towns such as Naples, Salerno, Torre, and Policastro Bussentino, along with Marsico Nuovo, Campagna, and Muro Lucano, reflecting the dense habitation and strategic importance of the region. The Amalfi Coast, known for its extraordinary beauty and maritime prowess, is represented by towns that have been pivotal in the area's economic and cultural history.

The map's historical significance is underscored by the geopolitical context of the area it represents. Naples, originally a Greek settlement named Neapolis, had by then experienced Roman rule and witnessed the rise and fall of numerous empires. By the 17th century, Naples was one of Europe's largest cities, its political narrative characterized by a series of foreign dominations. The region's earlier history, marked by Roman expansion, is still traceable through archaeological remains.

By the period the map portrays, the Lombard invasion of 568 had significantly altered Italy's landscape, and the ducats under the Exarchate of Ravenna, including Naples, had established the region's Byzantine



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connections. The Normans had also left their mark, establishing their first territory in Southern Italy with the county of Aversa north of Naples. The 1442 Aragonese conquest of Naples from the French Angevins brought about both destruction and a renewed economic vigor, tying Naples closer to the Iberian Peninsula and ushering in an era of Renaissance and humanism. However, the Habsburgs' Spanish rule was punctuated by revolts and the brief establishment of the Neapolitan Republic during the Crisis of the 17th Century.

The geopolitical landscape during the first half of the 17th Century in the region depicted was one of turbulence and transition, which would eventually lead to a marked improvement when the Bourbons claimed Naples in the War of the Polish Succession, freeing it from Austrian control and catalyzing a period of prosperity and cultural florescence.

The cartouches, compass rose, and sailing ships embellishing the map are not merely decorative but are emblematic of the era's artistic sensibilities and the region's maritime heritage.

Detailed Condition:

Old Color. Dutch text on verso. Minor staining in the blank margins.