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Moscovia Urbs Metropolis Totius Russia Albae [Moscow, the Metropolis City of All White Russia]

Stock#: 93928
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1617 (ca. 1625)
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18 x 14 inches
Price: \$ 4,500.00



Description:

Moscovia Urbs Metropolis Totius Russia Albae is a finely detailed plan of Moscow, created by the renowned mapmakers Georg Braun & Frans Hogenberg in 1617. This plan stands out due to its rarity; as part of the sixth volume of Braun & Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Theatrum*, it is far less common than their initial plan of Moscow, published in 1575.

The origins of the map trace back to a Russian survey reportedly ordered by Boris Fyodorovich Godunov, Czar of Muscovy from 1598 onwards. While the original Russian plan has not survived, it is believed that Braun & Hogenberg based their work on a copy made for King Sigismund III of Poland in 1610.

The map displays the historic core of Moscow, encircling the Kremlin and the fortified Kitai Gorod. It provides a high bird's-eye view from the east, with the Moskva River meandering through the city. The plan provides a detailed view of the then-capital, including notable landmarks such as the Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral. The map further features two large market-hall complexes and provides a clear representation of the key buildings within the Kremlin walls, such as the Uspenski Cathedral and the Cathedral of the Archangel Michael.

This 1617 map serves as an important historical artifact, offering a valuable perspective of the spatial organization and architectural fabric of early 17th-century Moscow. It underscores the city's status as a vibrant metropolis and the heart of Russia's religious, secular, and royal life until the capital was moved to St. Petersburg in 1713.



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Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. French text on verso (ca. 1625)