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Morea olim Peloponnesus

Stock#: 37431
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1619
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 14.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A fine old color example of Mercator's map of Morea, better known as the Peloponnese Peninsula, in Greece.

The Peloponnese Peninsula had played a central role in both history and culture since Homeric times. The large peninsula is connected to mainland Greece only by the narrow Isthmus of Corinth, and jutting deeply southwards, it lay along the crossroads of shipping in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas. Many places still familiar today are labelled on the map, including 'Coryato' (Corinth), 'Napoli' (Nafplio), Patras and 'Cithera' (Cythera), while Athens appears in Attica, to the northeast.

Prominently featured in the upper part of the map is the Gulf of Lepanto in 1571, the site of an epic naval battle between the forces of the Ottoman Empire and the combined forces of various European states. The outcome was a historical turning point, as it ensured western maritime supremacy over the Ottomans for decades to come. Even in 1619, almost half a century later, when the present map was printed, the Battle of Lepanto was still top of mind.

Detailed Condition: