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Grodna (Hrodna or Grodno)

Stock#: 39480
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1575
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking old colored example of Braun & Hogenberg's view of Hrodna or Grodno, Belarus, from an early edition of Braun & Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*.

This finely engraved view shows the city from across the Memel. Russian, Tatar, Turkish and Wallachian envoys are crossing the wooden bridge and entering the city in which King Sigismund II held an Imperial Diet in 1562. The earliest document in which Grodno is mentioned dates from 1128. In 1391, it was granted a municipal charter by Prince Vytautas and it quickly rose to prosperity following the victory over the Teutonic Knights in the battle of Tannenberg in 1410; Orthodox (right) and Roman Catholic (left) churches were built, and three castles (left).

Includes a decorative coat of arms. Shows the city on the far side of the Neman River, with a wooden bridge crossing the river. Buildings and chapels rest on the tops of hills, while men on horseback parade through the streets. The text on the verso translates as follows:

Lithuania is a vast but uncultivated land, east of Poland, with much grassland and marshes. The episcopal city of Vilnius is the capital and it is as big as Cracow with all its suburbs. The next biggest is Grodno, which lies on the River Cronon, or Memel, partly in the plain and partly on hilly ground. There are only a few stone houses standing together, the houses are roughly built, with little care; the city also has no walls or towers, gates and fortifications. But nearby there is a castle and a royal palace on the mountain, there the king of Poland has his seat.

Detailed Condition: