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[Cologne] Colonia Agrippina

Stock#: 96137
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1572
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 13.5 inches
Price: \$ 675.00



Description:

Colonia Agrippina by Braun & Hogenberg, dated circa 1572, offers a detailed bird's-eye view of the city of Cologne, combining architectural detail, urban planning, and historical commentaries. Within the map, the well-defined semicircular ground plan of Cologne fronting the Rhine is brought to life, capturing the city's vast expanse and its defining landmarks, most notably the towering Cologne Cathedral and the artistically described town hall.

The Late Renaissance era, within which this map was conceived, was a period characterized by the fusion of artistic grandeur and empirical observation. As Europe ventured deeper into the Age of Exploration, maps of cities such as Cologne became not only navigational aids but also artistic and historical testaments of the time. At this juncture, Cologne was experiencing a phase of economic and cultural flourishing, notably its close trading ties with England, and the establishment of the Cologne exchange in 1553. The presence of a bustling population, represented by the intricately illustrated buildings and streets, reflected its prominence as an epicenter of trade, academia, and faith.

The narrative inscribed within the cartouches provides a depth of historical context. The top cartouche, which chronicles the transformation of Divitense Munimentum, sheds light on Cologne's strategic importance from Roman times, emphasizing its function as a protective fortress against potential invasions. On the other hand, the bottom left cartouche delves into the significance of Cologne's bridge, an emblem of sovereignty and defense, and the symbolism behind the city's insignia, linking it to the religious import of the relics of the Magi. Additionally, the bottom right cartouche portrays Cologne as a beacon of political and ecclesiastical power in Germany, highlighting its influential roles within the Hanseatic League and the Holy Roman Empire.



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Furthermore, Braun's commentary provides an intimate perspective, painting a vivid portrait of Cologne as a dynamic city proud of its monumental structures. Particular attention is drawn to the cathedral, a masterstroke of Gothic architecture and a testament to the city's religious fervor. Equally, the depiction of the town hall emphasizes the city's civic pride and its standing as a hub of governance.

Braun & Hogenberg's depiction of Cologne stands not just as a geographical representation, but as a tapestry weaving together the city's architectural, political, and spiritual fabric during a significant epoch of its history.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Soiling in the margins.