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Florentissimae Civitatis Heidelbergensis Situs & Genuina Pictura, Tam arcem quam reliqua illius loci insigniora aedificia pulchre intuenti ob oculos statuens

Stock#: 17068
Map Maker: Munster
Date: 1550
Place: Basel
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 28 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

One of Two Known Views To Show the Heidelberg Bridge Destroyed in 1565

The detailed engraving from Sebastian Munster's mid-16th-century 'Cosmographia' provides an impressive view of Heidelberg, Germany, from the North, from across the River Neckar.

An impressive stone bridge traverses the river in the foreground. This bridge, named the Old Bridge or "Alte Brücke" in German, was an essential link between the city's two halves. The bridge is the sixth iteration of the Bridge, constructed in 1470, which would be destroyed by ice floes in 1565. In the present view the bridge is covered, with a wooden roadway that is open at the sides. The two towers of the bridge gate can be made out at the southern end of the bridge, while the monkey tower (*Affenturm*) is on the nearest pillar, towards the north end of the bridge. After several temporary wooden replacements, a permanent stone bridge was not constructed until the late 18th century. Nevertheless, Munster's engraving captured the original bridge in its prime, hinting at its significance to Heidelberg's identity and urban fabric.

Near the river, the Zeug Haus stands, a fortified structure serving as an arsenal. It adds a distinctive military aspect to the urban panorama, a clear sign of the city's preparedness in times of conflict.

Two churches, St. Peter Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit, can also be seen. St. Peter's Church is among the city's oldest, its architectural features borrowing from various periods, including the Carolingian, Romanesque, and Gothic eras. In contrast, the Church of the Holy Spirit, established in the late 14th century, towers above the marketplace and houses the burial sites of Palatinate electors.

Beyond the city, on the hillside, the Arx Regal and the Heidelberg Schloss are visible. The Royal Fortress



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is an emblem of defense and power, while the Heidelberg Castle, despite its later ruinous state, comes across as an architectural marvel of its time, showcasing styles from Gothic to Renaissance.

Finally, two coats of arms punctuate the engraving. Likely symbols of the Elector Palatine and the city of Heidelberg, they signal the historical and political lineage of the region.

In all, this birdseye view from Munster's 'Cosmographia' depicts Heidelberg as a vibrant city with a complex mix of religious, royal, and civic elements. The image, though static, seems to teem with the life and activity of the city in the mid-16th century.

Detailed Condition: