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Potosi

Stock#: 23944
Map Maker: Ogilby
Date: 1671
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 11 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Decorative and highly detailed view of the City of Potosi, from John Ogilby's *America: Being the Latest, and Most Accurate Description of the New World*, published in London in 1671.

Ogilby's work is an English translation of Arnoldus Montanus' *Die Nieuwe en onbekende Weereld...*, published in Amerstdam, although greatly expanded in some instances and with new maps and views.

Potosi is now the largest city in the the Department of Potosi in Bolivia, Founded by the Spanish in 1546 as a mining town within the Viceroyalty of Peru, it soon produced fabulous wealth, becoming one of the largest cities in the Americas and the world with a population exceeding 200,000 people. Most of the silver shipped through the Spanish Main came through Potosi. According to official records, 45,000 tons of pure silver were mined from Cerro Rico from 1556 to 1783. Of this total, 9,000 tons went to the Spanish monarchy.

The present view was engraved at a critical juncture in the colonial history of the region. In 1672, a mint was established to coin silver and water reservoirs were built to fulfill the growing population's needs. At that time more than eighty six churches were built and the city's population increased to nearly 200,000, making it one of the largest and wealthiest cities in Latin America and in the world.

Detailed Condition:

Two small marginal stains at top