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Roma

Stock#: 36967
Map Maker: Blaeu / Mortier

Date: 1663 (1724)
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.7 x 21.3 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of Joan Blaeu's plan of Rome, from Blaeu's *Theatrum civitatum et admirandorum Italiae,* first published in 1663.

The present edition, re-issued by Mortier, includes a grid pattern, added to the original Blaeu plate.

This finely engraved work illustrates Baroque Rome at its very finest, showcasing in pictographic detail, virtually every building, bridge and statute and monument within the city's ancient walls. Highlights include the Colosseum (near the center), the Baths of Diocletian (ruins to the east), and the Vatican, located on the southwestern edge of town.

The general grandeur of the city's newer buildings and boulevards is the result of the urban development plans initialized by Pope Sixtus V (reigned 1585-90). At the time that this plan was issued, the Medieval city (largely built with Roman ruins) had already largely given way to the grand palaces and squares adorned with statues and fountains - the Rome of Francesco Borromini and Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

The insignias of the 14 regions of Rome are shown at the bottom, along with two large ornate cartouches and a title cartouche. The Chigi Family arms of the current Pope Alxander VII (reigned 1655-67) are located in the upper-right.

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Blaeu's townplans are much rarer than the works of his contemporaries, for many copies of his townbooks perished in fire that ravaged Blaeu's workshop in 1672.

A striking and crisply engraved example in near fine condition.

Detailed Condition: