



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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### Cracovia Metropolis Regni Poloniae

**Stock#:** 37595  
**Map Maker:** Jansson  
**Date:** 1657  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 42 x 17 inches

**Price:** SOLD

#### Description:

Striking full color example of Jansson's scarce 2-sheet view of Cracow, from Jansson's rare town book *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*.

Taken from Braun & Hogenberg's view of the same title, this spectacular view incorporates 6 coats of arms and depicts the thriving city of Cracow on the Vistula River. The view is one of the most elaborate of all views for this work. The view provides a fine contemporary depiction of Cracow and the neighboring towns of Kazimierz and Kleparz and smaller villages beyond.

Apart from the buildings, often depicted with great care of architectural detail, it also shows the network of roads, rivers, suburban fields, gardens and broad pastures, as well as the details of everyday occupations of the inhabitants, such as raftsmen going on their raft down the Vistula River. In the foreground, a royal pageant is shown, with the king moving from Wawel Castle to his country residence in Lobzów.

The view includes a legend which names major landmarks, with an additional fifty described within the printed image. The latin names for the towns of Kleparz, Cracow and Kazimierz are set in banners above each town (Clepardia, Cracovia, Casimiria). Above Wawel, the royal residence, are (from the left) the Snake of the Sforzas, the Eagle and the Lithuanian "Chase".

Kazimierz was a Jewish town established for the Jewish community in Krakow by the Polish Kings. Furthermore, in this map there are three remarkable features found here for the first time.

First, underneath the banner on which is prominently featured CASIMIRIA, below and to the left reads "Oppidum Iudeorum" (Settlement of the Jews). This is the first map or view to note the Jewish district of Krakow.





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Second, below the text referenced above, the text further notes "Porta Iudeorum" (Jew's Gate). Below that is a set of buildings which, when moving slowly to the right, come to an end at a steepled church in front of which is a red gabled building.

Third, below the Gate of the Jews, in the space between those buildings, are a set of red-roofed buildings that are on the shores of the river. Those buildings under the legend Porta Iudeorum have a wall in front of them, up against the steepled church, a building which still survives, the oldest extant synagogue building in Poland, whose origins date back to the fourteenth century, the building itself to the fifteenth century.

**Detailed Condition:**

2 sheet view, joined, as issued. Restoration in two sections of left sheet, where previously folded, affecting the printed image in the Clepardia banner and toward the front of the parade at the bottom, to the right of the mounted noblemen.