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Magdeburgum . . . Metropolitana Saxoniae Urbs [Magdeburg... the metropolitan city of Saxony.]

Stock#: 42108mp2
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1572 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 17 x 12.5 inches
Price: \$ 295.00



Description:

An exquisite rendering of the Saxon metropolis, Magdeburg, this bird's-eye view is a product of the renowned collaboration between Georg Braun and Frans Hogenberg, from their seminal work, the six-volume *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*. Created circa 1572, this representation furnishes a vivid, bird's-eye perspective of the city, capturing its Gothic architectural triumphs and robust fortifications, a testament to its historical power and prestige.

Couched within the broad ambit of the Renaissance, the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* marked an epoch in the art of city mapping, an intermingling of art, geography, and topography. The collaborative effort of Braun, a cleric and editor, and Hogenberg, an engraver, was instrumental in this evolution, and their city maps, such as the present one of Magdeburg, encapsulate the essence of this transformative period.

The depiction of Magdeburg—once known as Parthenopolis in reverence to Venus—offers a detailed urban panorama, highlighting its remarkable structures and the physical geography of its environs. The iconic Gothic cathedral of SS Maurice and Catherine, the fortified castle, St John's church—the pulpit for Martin Luther in 1524—and the town hall fronting the Alter Markt, are all immortalized with remarkable precision. The map delineates the narrow city walls and its location by the Elbe, emblematic of its strategic and economic importance, as the accompanying cartouche text elucidates.

The inclusion of Magdeburg in the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* underscores its significance as a key urban center during the Renaissance. Braun's commentary enhances our understanding of the city's historical context, emphasizing its noble stature, architectural grandeur, and unique administrative role in the

Drawer Ref: Braun &
Hogenberg (Misc. 8)

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burgaviate. The Magdeburg depiction stands as a historical document and a work of art, encapsulating the essence of a city that, in its time, embodied wealth, power, and cultural richness.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Minor centerfold split repaired on verso.