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Lumen Historiarum per Occidentem ex Conatibus Fran. Haraei Antverpiae

Stock#: 56161
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1624 circa
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14 x 10.5 inches
Price: \$ 450.00



Description:

Elaborate Map of the Ancient World by Famed Cartographer Franciscus Haraeus, Contemporary of Ortelius

Historical map of the Ancient Western world, based on biblical as well as classical sources. This map was created by the cartographer Franciscus Haraeus, a contemporary of Abraham Ortelius.

It was published in the last Moretus edition of Ortelius' 1624 *Parergon*, the first historical atlas. Though Ortelius died in 1598, the *Parergon's* popularity meant publishing continued for decades after, and skilled cartographers like Haraeus could benefit from its visibility by adding in their own maps.

This map is oriented northward and covers much of Europe and the Mediterranean region, stretching from North Africa (*Africae pars*) to the British Isles (*Angliae pars*) and from the Iberian Peninsula (*Hispania*) to the Aegean Sea (*Mare Ageum*). Cities are drawn with clusters of buildings, typical of an Ortelius-style map. This map also depicts smaller towns by a circle with a dot in the center.

This map is characterized by excellent attention to detail. The shape of the coastline is very accurate, which is unsurprising given that Europe was well mapped by this time. Rivers are carefully rendered, and throughout the map mountain ranges and a few forests give the land texture. The African coast, though clearly less comprehensive than Europe, is more detailed than many other maps from this time. Many coastal and inland cities are labeled, and some forests and foothills are drawn in the southeast corner (*Marmarica*).



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The large water bodies in this map are shaded to give the textured appearance of waves, a more intricate design than regular stippling. The seas are decorated as well, with a large ship in the Cantabrian Sea (*Mare Cantabricum*) and a fanged sea monster off the coast of Libya (*Lybia*).

These decorations speak to the myths and histories portrayed throughout the map.

The title cartouche in the southwest corner is also quite ornate, with classic Ortelius strapwork complimented by fruits and animals. The title of the map indicates that it portrays the histories of the Western world, by Franciscus Haraeus.

Haraeus was a historian, theologian, geographer, and mapmaker from Antwerp and a contemporary of Ortelius. He is known for his work designing a globe in 1617, which was likely based off of Ortelius' maps and others from the time. He was also a contributor on other atlases, including Hornius' *Orbis Antiquis* of 1653.

Surrounding the map on three sides is an alphabetized list of places that can be found in this region that have historical and biblical importance, with some additional notes about the character of the place or its relation to the surrounding region. This additional writing allows for a deeper focus on important locations that would not be possible on the map alone. They also speak to Haraeus' interest in history and theology.

Parergon

This map appeared in the final edition of Ortelius' *Parergon*. Although best known for his world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the *Parergon* was a project of personal interest and the work that Ortelius himself considered his greatest achievement. He had a deep curiosity about classical antiquity which spurred him to create the *Parergon* maps, and the amount of time and detail he put into each map is clearly evident. Ortelius hand drew each map of the *Parergon*, which required considerable skill and knowledge of the area's history and geography. It is considered the first historical atlas.

Parergon means supplementary and, accordingly, the first three *Parergon* maps were published as supplements to the 1579 edition of the *Theatrum*, which had already been in print for nine years. Over time, successive editions of the *Theatrum* were supplemented with more *Parergon* maps, and there are 55 known plates overall. The *Parergon* was also published as its own atlas separate from the *Theatrum* on two occasions, once in 1595 and again in 1624.

The *Parergon* was highly successful both as a supplement to the *Theatrum* and on its own. It was variously translated into French, German, Italian, and English and regularly printed until 1612. Further editions were more sporadic but still popular, such as the 1624 edition which was published twenty-six years after



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Ortelius' death in 1598.

This striking map and indeed the entire *Parergon* blends geography, history, and myth, and the level of detail present indicates Haraeus' skill. This would be a valuable addition to a collection of European and Mediterranean maps, Ortelius maps, or maps of classical antiquity.

Detailed Condition: