Riga

Stock#:	57138
Map Maker:	Merian
Date:	1650
Place:	Frankfurt
Color:	Hand Colored
Condition:	VG+
Size:	10.5 x 8.5 inches
Price:	SOLD

Description:

Striking view of the town and harbor of Riga, including a coat of arms.

Matthaus Merian (1593-1650) was a Swiss engraver and one of the most prolific engraver's of town views in the 17th Century. Merian learned the art of copperplate engraving in Zurich and subsequently worked and studied in Strasbourg, Nancy, and Paris, before returning to Basel in 1615. The following year he moved to Frankfurt, Germany, where he worked for the son of Theodor de Bry, the publisher Johann Theodor de Bry, whose daughter Maria Magdalena he married in 1617. In 1620 they moved back to Basel, only to return three years later to Frankfurt, where Merian took over the publishing house of his father-in-law, after de Bry's death in 1623. In 1626, he became a citizen of Frankfurt and could henceforth work as an independent publisher.

Merian spent most of his working life in Frankfurt. His first town view was a plan of Basel from 1615. With Martin Zeiler (1589 - 1661), a German geographer, and later (circa 1640) with his own son, Matthäus Merian (1621 - 1687), Mrian produced a series of *Topographia,* which grew to 21 volumes, collectively known as the *Topographia Germaniae.* In 1647, his daughter Anna Maria Sibylla Merian was born, who would become a pioneering naturalist and illustrator. Matthäus Merian died after several years of illness in 1650 in Bad Schwalbach near Wiesbaden.

After his death his sons Matthäus and Caspar took over the publishing house and continued publishing the T *opographia Germaniae* and the *Theatrum Europaeum* under the name Merian Erben (i.e. Merian Heirs).

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Detailed Condition: