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La Fortezza et Pianta Della Goletta

Stock#: 61568sb
Map Maker: Lafreri
Date: 1573 circa
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 16.1 x 9.8 inches
Price: \$ 2,500.00



Description:

The Only Known Example -- The Fort/Citadel of Goletta Prior to the Turkish Siege of Tunis in 1574.

The engraving depicts the Bay of Tunis, apparently just before the siege by the Turks in July 1574 at the Goletta citadel. The Turkish expedition, supported by forces Maghreb Muslims, would permanently eliminate the Spanish presence in Tunisia.

Unlike a later state of the map which was previously known to exist, Bifulco opines in a recent update to his work that his a unique and previously unknown early state of the map, pre-dating the appearance of any information regarding the siege in July 1574, which is shown on the other known examples.

This map is attributed to Antonio Lafreri's printing house, due to the presence in the 1573 catalog of "Diuerse carte di Tunisi et la Goletta". In Stefano Duchetti's inventory it is referred to as "Il forte de Tunis", while in Pietro de Nobili's as "Plan of the fortress of Tunis".

Siege of Tunis

In 1573, King John of Austria recaptured Tunis and Goletta, leaving Tunis with a garrison of 8,000 soldiers, under the command of Serbelloni. A decision was made to build a fortress in Tunis and improved the fortifications of Goletta. The two fortresses, however, were reconquered by the Turks in August 1574, after a month of siege. Serbelloni himself was taken prisoner and taken to Constantinople.

In 1575, after his imprisonment, he wrote an account of his time at Goletta and Tunis, which was published in 1577 in the collection edited by Girolamo Ruscelli.



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Rarity

Bifulco notes that this example is apparently the only known surviving example of the map.

Detailed Condition: