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Flandria

Stock#: 64135
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1572
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19.25 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A nice example of Ortelius's second map of Flanders, from the 1584 Latin edition of his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas of the world. The map is executed inside of a decorative strapwork egg-shaped border and is one of the most decorative of Ortelius' regional maps and is further embellished with a compass rose, sailing ships in battle, sea monsters, a coat of arms and a woman seated and holding grain. The map is based upon Gerard Mercator's map of Flanders of 1540.

Flanders was one of the richest and most important regions of Europe throughout the modern era. This low-lying Dutch-speaking province hosted some of the great cities of Europe, with "Gendr" (Ghent) being pictured here as the greatest city in the region. Antwerp is shown as part of "Brabantia," and Zeeland Flanders as part of Dutch Zealandia, indicating how much the concept of Flanders has changed. While Flanders originally referred to solely the region shown on this map which comprised the fiefdom of Flanders, while now it refers to all of Dutch-speaking Belgium.

Here, the region is attractively portrayed, with forests and low hills shown pictorially. Many other features are denoted, including lakes, rivers, islands, monasteries, and much more. This map is a prime example of why Ortelius's maps are so prized.

Ortelius published two iterations of this map in 1573, with a combined total of 75 examples, making this the rarest version of the map. The two 1573 iterations are barely distinguishable: Ortelius decided to recenter an additional line the final paragraph on the verso, perhaps for some aesthetic or spacing reason. This Latin text describes the various cities, neighbors, and inhabitants of the region.



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Detailed Condition:

Old Color